Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Algeria

"Complete calm" prevails, Algiers radio reported. The Islamic Salvation Front criticized the resignation of President Bendjedid as "unconstitutional," the radio continued. The Front also "called on the people and the Army to unite" and "rise up" against the authorities, according to a Paris radio correspondent. The leader of the second strongest party in the recent elections criticized the "coup" and warned of civil war, Paris international radio noted.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Negotiations began after the resolution of a procedural dispute, Jerusalem radio reported. The Syrian chief negotiator urged Israel not to leave the talks prematurely, Damascus radio noted. Syria and Israel termed their talks with each other "fruitless," Damascus and Jerusalem radios observed. Israel offered the Palestinians "interim self-government," Jerusalem radio disclosed; Israeli Deputy Minister Netanyahu, however, said "no draft agreement was submitted," the radio continued.

Israel

Shamir told Jerusalem radio that Israel is "determined to pursue the negotiations and not to stop them;" the defense minister told the radio that any political solution must leave Israel and the Gaza Strip as "one economic unit." The Military Judge Advocate's Office rejected the chief of staff's proposal for "temporary deportations," HADASHOT disclosed. All planes returned after bombing a "terrorist target" in Lebanon, Jerusalem radio noted.

Jordan

The foreign minister believes that the Moscow talks will be delayed until the end of March due to differences between the sides and internal conditions in Russia, WAKH reported. The government denied that the minister made this statement, Amman television noted.

Iraq

INA transmitted substantial excerpts of the minutes of James Baker's 1991 meeting in Geneva with then Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz; Baghdad newspapers and broadcast media provided similar coverage.

Pakistan

The minister of state for economic affairs, commenting on remarks by U.S. Senator Pressler concerning Pakistani nuclear efforts, described them as "unfounded" and the "product of a distracted mind," Islamabad radio reported. The secretary general of foreign affairs said that Pressler showed "partiality" against Pakistan in his views, the radio continued.

Sudan

The foreign minister criticized statements by his Egyptian counterpart on Sudan's alleged threat to the region, terming them "untrue and baseless" and an "incitement," SUNA stated.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sides Accept Plan To Break Procedural Impasse

TA1301163392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The procedural dispute between Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegations in the Washington peace talks has been overcome and the delegations are now due to move from the corridor to a real discussion in the negotiating room in the State Department, but the Palestinians have not yet arrived. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that after an hour-long discussion between Elyaqim Rubinstein and the heads of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the three inspected the hall where the negotiations will be conducted and informed the delegations waiting in their hotels to come and start discussions. If the Palestinians arrive, Rubinstein plans to present them with a document entitled: A Self-Government Accord.

Talks with the Syrian and Lebanese teams have also begun. The discussions with the Lebanese was stopped after several minutes because Suhayl Shammas, the head of their delegation, fell ill, and the talks will continue tomorrow. In the discussions with the Syrians, Yosi Ben-Aharon announced that the Israeli delegation plans to leave Washington Wednesday. The Syrian representative replied that it is a sign that Israel does not have serious intentions.

Palestinian Formula Reported

TA1301132092 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 12 Jan 92 pp 1, 11

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Washington—Here is the text of the Palestinian formula presented by the Palestinian delegation to the Israeli delegation to overcome the impasse stalling the bilateral talks in Washington:

1. Invitations to a meeting will be issued to the heads of the three delegations: Palestinian, Jordanian, and Israeli.

2. A meeting will be held between the joint delegation and the Israeli delegation to set a timetable for the two tracks.

3. A meeting will be held between the Palestinian and Israeli and the Jordanian and Israeli tracks in two separate rooms.

4. A meeting of the three delegation heads will be held for assessment purposes.

5. A meeting will be held between the joint delegation and the Israeli delegation at the end of this round of negotiations to discuss the venue and date of the next round.

6. Each delegation head may call a meeting of the three heads to discuss the possibility of holding a meeting between the joint delegation and the Israeli delegation.

7. Depending on what is agreed on, one or more Jordanians will join the Palestinian track and one or more Palestinians will join the Jordanian track.

8. The Palestinian delegation will adhere to the Jordanian- Palestinian agreement, the text of the invitations, and the letter of assurances.

9. The Palestinian delegation will raise the settlement issue at the negotiations as the top priority on its agenda. There will be full coordination on this matter.

Talks Begin

JN1301165792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Washington—The third round of the second stage of Middle East peace talks began at the U.S. State Department at 1700 today, Damascus time.

On his way to the meeting, Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the talks, hoped that what happened in the second round of talks would not recur in this round.

The second round of talks was held in Washington between 10 and 18 December. It was held five days after the date fixed, 4 December, because of the Israeli delegation's deliberate absence. The Israeli delegation's determination to emphasize procedural issues led to making no progress during that round.

Al-'Allaf added: If there is a sincere desire for peace, there will be a need to stay in Washington for the sake of serious and persistent work. Peace deserves our great interest, more than that given by the Israeli side. Peace is not complementary work. It is in the interest of all nations and peoples. We do not see that it is wise always to resort to such behavior.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, also arrived at the U.S. State Department.

'No Sign of Breakthrough'

JN1301204692 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Murid Hammad report from Washington]

[Text] Negotiations between the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli negotiators at the State Department in Washington continued into the afternoon, with no sign of a breakthrough yet. Earlier today, the talks were reported to have been progressing well enough for all delegations. Our sources in the Jordanian delegation inside the State Department told us that after an hour of talks between the three heads of the three delegations, the three heads summoned the rest of the delegations, who arrived 20 minutes later, and they all went to start discussing how to get into an enlarged meeting of all delegations. But, apparently, the talks are stalled again over numbers.

The heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations had earlier arrived at the State Department just before 9 a.m. Washington time, 4 p.m. Jordan time. The two were expected to have centered on two main issues: authority and terms of reference for the joint delegation, and the numbers of each delegation at the two-track talks.

Another set of talks was being held today at the State Department between the Syrian and the Israeli delegations. The Syrians are insisting on the implementation of United Nations resolutions regarding the Golan Heights and calling for an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the Golan Heights, while the Israelis are insisting on separate peace treaty with Syria. The Israelis, as far the as talks are concerned, are insisting on two main issues: The implementation of the May agreement with Lebanon, which Lebanon says was null and void, and never ratified by the Lebanese parliament, and, of course, security arrangements in south Lebanon, while the Lebanese delegation are insisting on implementation of two issues: one is the 1948 armistice agreement with Israel and, second, implementation of United Nations Resolutions 425 and 426. No clear indications yet as to how much progress the talks will achieve today, but we expect that the talks will last for a few more days. That is, unless the Israelis decide to leave, as they have threatened, to leave Washington on Wednesday or Thursday.

Syria: 'Fruitless' Discussion

JN1301223392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the third round of the second stage of the Middle East peace talks, has announced that during today's meeting, the delegation stressed the need for the Israeli side to stop its unserious way of dealing with the peace process and its focus on peripheral rather than substantive issues.

In a statement to reporters following the meeting, which was held at the U.S. State Department this morning, he expressed his disappointment over the results of today's meeting.

He said: I again regret to say that the discussion was fruitless, because the Israeli side continued to raise the issue of changing the venue for the talks and insisted on moving the talks from Washington, at a time when these talks have not yet started in earnest.

Al-'Allaf also pointed out that the Israeli side wants to give the current round of talks only three days, ending on Wednesday. He stressed that Israel is unserious and indifferent toward the peace process. He added: We informed them of the need to stop the way they are dealing with the talks and enter into a discussion of substantive issues seriously. He added: During today's meeting, which lasted for three hours, most of the time was wasted on talking about the venue and the date of the Israeli departure.

He added: When the talks dealt with other issues, they presented lengthy statements on issues that have nothing to do with the core of the talks; they dealt with peripheral matters without touching on substantive issues, including ways of implementing Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, how the principle of land for peace can be put into effect, and how to achieve the desired goal of the peace process. He wondered: How can we reach results in the talks while the Israeli side continues its futile ways, while it is giving only two or three days to the talks, and while it is concentrating on peripheral issues?

The talks will be resumed tomorrow at 1000 Washington time, 1700 Damascus time.

Israel: Talks With Syria 'Fruitless'

TA1301202492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The plenum meeting of the Israeli and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations will begin in Washington in 90 minutes, it was decided a short time ago by the heads of delegation. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the first meeting between Israel and Syria in this round of talks was fruitless. Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the Israeli delegation, said that the Syrians insisted on not discussing recognition of Israel at all and just demanded a date for the evacuation of the Golan Heights. The meeting with the Lebanese delegation lasted a few minutes and will resume tomorrow due to the illness of the head of delegation.

Palestinians, Jordanians, Israelis in 'Good' Talks

JN1401074192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Jan 92

[George Hanif report from Washington]

[Text] Heads and members of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations held a joint meeting yesterday at 1700, Washington time, midnight, Jordan time.

The meeting was held at the U.S. State Department. The heads and members of the delegations sat at a square table. Numbers were open and unlimited for every delegation as each side was given the freedom to choose the number of members it wanted. The photographers and journalists were allowed half a minute to take pictures of the joint meeting.

The nearly 40-minute meeting dealt with procedural issues, the time and place for holding the meetings.

After the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, told reporters:

[Begin al-Majali recording] The meeting was good because we agreed in the morning on all the measures that should be taken, according to which the three delegation heads of the two tracks would meet and then the general meeting would be held, without fixing numbers. After that, the two-track meetings will be held, the

Palestinian track and the Jordanian track. This is something we have agreed on freely, without any pressure. [end recording]

Later, the Palestinian and Israeli delegations held a meeting that lasted approximately two and a half hours and ended at around 0300, Jordan time. The two delegations sat in a separate hall at a square table and photographers also were allowed half a minute to take pictures.

The meeting discussed the agenda of this track from the point of view of each party. It was attended by nine members of the Palestinian delegation and two members of the Jordanian delegation—Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah and 'Awn Khasawinah—as was agreed at the morning session.

After the meeting, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, told reporters:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] This is the first meeting on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The meeting was devoted to inaugural speeches from the two sides. The Palestinian delegation presented a letter dealing with the main principles of the negotiations as we view them. The Palestinian delegation presented a detailed agenda, and the Israeli delegation presented a joint agenda for the Jordanian and the Palestinian tracks. We asked them to present an agenda for the Palestinian-Israeli track, and they promised to do so. The meeting was confined to remarks by the two sides on what was presented as an agenda. [end recording]

This session between the Palestinians and the Israelis is the first on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations held a meeting in which they agreed to hold the joint meeting and then separate into two tracks, a Jordanian-Palestinian track, which includes nine Jordanians and two Palestinians facing 11 Israelis, and a Palestinian-Israeli track, which includes nine Palestinians and two Jordanians facing 11 Israelis.

This meeting comes after 12 earlier sessions between heads of delegations. Eleven of these sessions were held between 4 and 18 December. Yesterday, one session was held by the heads of the delegations, during which it was agreed to hold this meeting and to proceed with the negotiations on two tracks.

A morning meeting will be held today for the Jordanian and the Israeli delegations at 0930, Washington time, 1630 Jordan time. An evening session will be held today for the Palestinian and the Israeli delegations at 1600, Washington time, 2300 Jordan time.

The negotiations between the Syrian, Lebanese, and the Israeli delegations will resume today.

Israel Offers 'Interim Self-Government'

TA1401053992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] In last night's talks with the Palestinian delegation in Washington, Israel proposed an arrangement for interim self-government. The Palestinians submitted a counterproposal. Earlier, the plenum of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation had convened.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the Israeli delegation will meet the Jordanian delegation and propose a draft for a peace treaty.

Netanyahu: No Self-Rule Proposal

TA1401064092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Excerpt] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Deputy Minister Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] Perhaps you could clarify things for those who are still confused. Did Israel submit its proposals for self-government to the Palestinian delegation last night?

[Netanyahu] No, it did not. It is important to stick to the facts. I am not currently dealing with my own political assessments or with those of my coalition partners; however, they would be better advised to base their assessments on facts. No draft agreement was submitted. There is no draft agreement.

[Zissowitz] But it is just a matter of time until it is submitted?

[Netanyahu] First of all, you asked me a question which I would like to answer. What was submitted was a proposal for issues on which to negotiate the agenda—not even the agenda itself, but issues that must be discussed in order to set an agenda—and even on those....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] And is the issue of self- administration for the Palestinians included among those issues that still must be discussed?

[Netanyahu] We are talking about an interim accord that includes a series of clauses which we must discuss in order to decide who is in charge of what. There are various clauses. Nobody is saying: We are giving you something; here is our proposal. A whole series of issues must be discussed. I do not have them here in front of me, but there is no agreement regarding the control of various spheres or who is in control of which sphere, who can delegate responsibilities, and so forth. In other words, what we have now is an initial list of issues upon which we still have to agree that these are in fact the issues about which we are going to negotiate. These are the facts. All the rest is merely interpretation.

[Zissowitz] As for the facts, all the reports from our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami in Washington and from the news agencies keep on repeating that the issue discussed yesterday was Palestinian self-administration, autonomy.

[Netanyahu] Look, I was not present at the meeting, but I know one thing. The government has basic guidelines, and it is common knowledge that this is one of the issues that the government is supposed to discuss. The coalition factions that joined the government were familiar with the government's program. There is still a great distance, however, between this and the eventual outcome of the negotiations. We have not even begun the negotiations.

[Zissowitz] But either way, it is a matter of time. I would like to ask you, Deputy Minister Netanyahu, whether this government will be able to continue conducting the peace talks after the two factions resign?

[Netanyahu] I do not know. I would not like to indulge in speculation. Obviously, the political situation can change things. But, as matters actually stand, I believe that we should first of all stick to the facts. I simply believe that every Knesset member and each faction has the right to determine its position. That is clear. Their actions should, however, be based on things that really are happening in the field. I also could add that the prime minister and the government undoubtedly will discuss the fundamental issues. I understand that Minister Ne'eman wanted to convene such a session last week, but postponed it himself. Therefore, before making such a decision—if they indeed make it—I hope that the coalition members will first of all verify and consider the facts. This can be done easily through contacts with the prime minister and the cabinet. [passage omitted]

Rubinstein Evaluates Talks

TA1401060592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by 'Oded Ben-'Ami in Washington on 13 January—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr. Rubinstein, can you say that there was a breakthrough in the contacts following the first meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations?

[Rubinstein] Aside from the general opening statements, in which each side presented several issues, we primarily dealt with the agenda for more detailed negotiations. Each side presented ideas for the agenda. Naturally, we have differences of opinion. There also are certain issues on which our viewpoints—at least in broad outlines—are more similar; however, I assume that there will be more negotiations on this.

[Ben-'Ami] Did you and the Israeli delegation submit a proposal for interim arrangements for self-government to the Palestinian delegation?

[Rubinstein] We presented our proposals for the agenda, and they presented theirs. We have not yet gone into the specifics of the interim accords; the details will come later, not in this round of talks.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr. Rubinstein, one personal question. There was some kind of breakthrough today nevertheless. How do you feel? What did you feel when you could finally leave the corridor and enter the negotiating room with all the other partners?

[Rubinstein] I would not like to speak in terms of a breakthrough. I am trying to tone down the descriptions and avoid any exaggerations. The real breakthrough will come when the negotiations proceed in the direction we seek and the peace process makes progress; however, there definitely was a feeling that we have concluded one chapter—which was not an easy one—and that direct negotiations truly have begun, thanks to the great efforts of my colleagues in the Israeli delegation and myself, as well as the members of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. From this aspect, there was a feeling that some progress has been made, and the meeting of the delegation's plenum—what was known as the general meeting—also was very dignified. Even such modest accomplishments definitely amount to something.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you, Mr. Rubinstein.

Lebanese Negotiator Ill; Delay in Talks Sought

NC1301172392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The third round of the Arab-Israeli talks began at the State Department in Washington at 1700 Beirut time. The Israeli side held a meeting with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the main conference hall.

The Lebanese and Israeli delegations' meeting has been postponed for 24 hours because Ambassador Suhayl Shammas is indisposed. But a five-minute meeting was held between the two sides. Ambassador Ja'far Mu'awiyah declared after the meeting that the Lebanese delegation requested that the talks be postponed for 24 hours until Ambassador Shammas has recovered.

[Paris AFP in English at 1604 GMT on 13 January, in a Beirut- datelined report citing Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, says: "Buwayz told reporters here that Suhayl Shammas' health did not permit him to preside over the delegation, and that a postponement would be sought.

"Lebanese diplomats said Monday that Shammas had a history of diabetes and heart problems.

"'However, if the Americans insist that the talks begin at the scheduled time, another member of the delegation, Ja'far Mu'awiyah, the Foreign Ministry's director of political affairs, will replace Mr. Shammas,' Buwayz said.

"The foreign minister added that the Lebanese team was ready to step up the speed of the meetings, if necessary."]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Groups Arrive for Arab Parliamentary Union Session

Egyptian Delegation Arrives 13 Jan

LD1301150392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jan (JANA)—Kamil al-Shadhili, assistant secretary general of the National Party in the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Tripoli this morning at the head of a delegation to attend the 21st session of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which is scheduled to be held in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The delegation was welcomed on arrival by the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress and head of the Egyptian Relations Bureau in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Shadhili is accompanied by Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ilah, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Egyptian People's Assembly, and Tulbah 'Uwaydah, chairman of the assembly's Arab Relations Committee.

PNC Official Heads Palestinian Team

LD1301150592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1431 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jan (JANA)—Tayisr Qubba'h, deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council, arrived in Tripoli this morning at the head of a delegation to attend the 21st session of the Arab Parliamentary Union scheduled to be held in the Great Jamahiriyah. The delegation was welcomed on arrival by the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, Qubba'h said that the holding of the session in the Great Jamahiriyah is tantamount to an expression through the Arab parliaments of the Arab nations' support for the Great Jamahiriyah and its stand against the U.S. and British allegations.

GCC Secretary General on Israeli Boycott, Summit

NC1001192592 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 7 Jan 92 p 2

[Interview with 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC, by Muhammad Matar, in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Matar] Egypt proposed lifting the boycott on Israel if the latter stops building settlements. Reports indicate that some GCC states have lifted some of these boycott restrictions despite the fact that Israel continues its settlement policy.

[Bisharah] We said that we in the GCC were ready to lift the boycott if the Israelis stopped building settlements. I believe the boycott is something moral and symbolic. It expresses the real anger over the occupation of the Palestinian territories and dispersal of the people from these territories. This is the truth. The speed with which the settlements are being built and the effects of that on the future must be dealt with as soon as possible. It is not true that some GCC countries lifted some restrictions. We have not lifted any of the boycott restrictions and will not as long as Israel continues building settlements. I do not know how peace can be achieved with this huge settlement project. [passage omitted]

[Matar] People who observed the GCC summit believe differences exist among the leaders of the GCC states. For example, the disagreement over the idea of establishing a unified Gulf army. What do you think?

[Bisharah] There were no differences between the GCC leaders during the summit. An atmosphere of harmony and understanding prevailed throughout the summit sessions. The leaders of the GCC states heard the security report presented by Sultan Qabus on the idea of forming a unified Gulf army. This issue has been postponed, however, because it is such a sensitive matter.

[Matar] There were no disputes or differences of opinion? Why was the Qatari and Bahraini dispute not discussed at the summit?

[Bisharah] The Qatari and Bahraini dispute was not discussed because it is a special case. An international court is looking into the matter. In addition, the last summit had one very important question to address: How to deal with the Iraqi regime in addition to the other Arab, regional, and international issues. [passage omitted]

Qatar Making 'Headway' in Tehran-Cairo Mediation

PM1401111492 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 11 Jan 92 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Qatari Mediation Reactivates Relations Between Cairo and Tehran"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—A prominent Iranian source yesterday told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Qatar's mediation between Egypt and Iran has made good headway and that there is additional reason to believe that relations between the two countries could resume soon.

The source said that a few days ago the Iranian leadership received positive replies from the Egyptian Government to a number of questions it had addressed to it. He pointed to the possibility of this leading to direct contacts through the two countries' representatives at the UN European headquarters in Geneva.

The source cited a number of names put forward to represent Iran in Cairo, including former Iranian ambassador to the Vatican, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Khasru Shahi [as transliterated].

The source pointed out that the only obstacle now to an agreement is the fact that Cairo is not convinced by the explanations given by Tehran in connection with its

relations with Khartoum. The source quoted an Egyptian official as saying that the matter is an absolute priority in Cairo's considerations.

The source revealed that Iran was about to restore its diplomatic relations with Egypt following the liberation of Kuwait, but that regional and international developments prevented it. Relations remained frozen until Qatar resumed its mediation during the Qatari heir apparent's visit to Tehran last year.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that Tehran asked the Qatari mediators to convey its questions about what it termed fateful issues concerning Iran "so that we can reach a decision and announce our position in the light of those answers."

According to a reliable Iranian source, Tehran's questions are as follows:

1—Is Cairo prepared to close down the Iranian radio stations supervised by the royal opposition, in return for Iran's ceasing to support fundamentalist groups in Egypt?

2—What is Cairo's position on Iran's legitimate demands regarding its investments in Egypt since the shah's era, which total some $1 billion.

3—What is Cairo's position on Tehran's proposal that the two countries—through their representatives in the UN European office in Geneva—make contacts behind the scenes to determine the points of disagreement and understanding in preparation for initiating open contacts at summit level?

Islamic Affairs

ICO Information Ministers Conference To Meet

Iranian Delegation Arrives

NC1101142592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Ambassador Sabah Zanjaneh, Iran's permanent delegate [name and title as received] to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], arrived in Cairo today. Upon arrival, he stated that his country views Egypt as a great Arab country with an ancient Islamic history which has rendered great services to the Muslim and Arab worlds.

The Iranian official, who will lead his country's delegation to the ICO information minister's conference due to open in Cairo on Wednesday, said his country will present a working paper to the conference on its proposals for Islamic media activity. He pointed out that the paper will focus on ways to consolidate relations between Muslim countries in the press, radio, cinema, and other cultural and media fields.

He added that the paper will also provide information on the Islamic presence in the newly independent former republics of the former Soviet Union, as well as on the role the Islamic media conference and the ICO can play in these republics.

Preparatory Session Begins 11 Jan

NC1101142492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Senior information officials from Islamic countries began meetings in Cairo today to prepare for the Second Conference of Islamic Information Ministers due to be held in Cairo on Thursday and Friday. In their 3-day preparatory meetings, the senior officials will discuss a number of important topics on Islamic action in the future.

The officials will discuss, among other things, a number of documents submitted by the Islamic Conference Organization's general secretariat on the Islamic information plan and its implemention, the Islamic program for improving telecommunications, subscription fees for press telecommunication in Islamic states, and the situation in the International Islamic News Agency and the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization. The conferees will also discuss a number of working papers submitted by Egypt and Malaysia on future Islamic action.

Saudi Information Undersecretary Dr. Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Salam al-Fasi [name and title as received] delivered the opening speech on behalf of Saudi Arabia, which chaired the First Conference of Islamic Information Ministers. In his speech, al-Fasi stressed the Islamic world's need to quickly identify its position in the newly emerging world order and to determine what role we could play in it that would be compatible with our history, suit our capabilities, and achieve our aspirations. Al-Fasi urged the Islamic states to mobilize their strength by means of cooperation, understanding, coordination, by opening channels of communications, and by facilitating the exchange of information, expertise, and reliable news gathered from their official sources.

Al-Fasi noted that there is a Zionist campaign that seeks to create an anti-Islam world opinion and this, in turn, clearly shows the magnitude and dimensions of the battle awaiting us, adding that the main weapon in this battle is the media. [passage omitted]

End to Blockade on Iraq Urged

JN1101203992 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 11, INA—The General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Popular Conference called on all world bodies, organizations and parties to bear their responsibilities and mobilize their potentials to break the unjust economic blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

A press statement released by the secretariat today on the occasion of holding the 5th world [word indistinct] popular conference next Friday said that the Arab and Islamic nation was being exposed to a material and moral aggression orchestrated by Zionism and U.S. imperialism.

The statement added that the forces of aggression had recruited all organs of information and propaganda to undermine Iraq's historic leadership.

It added that the negative effects of the economic blockade posed a serious threat to the people of Iraq.

The general secretariat appealed to all intellects in the Islamic world to declare their support for and solidarity with the Iraqi people.

It stressed the importance of the joint Islamic action in preserving the nation and its sanctions, ensuring the unity of its ranks and aborting the plans targetting its existence.

Algeria

Further on New Government, Canceled Elections

Situation in East Remains 'Calm'

LD1201142492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] As for the general situation in the east of the country, we have received the following report from Constantine:

[Unidentified correspondent] In eastern Algeria, the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid remains the talk of the street, and the concern remains concentrated on the development of the situation in the aftermath of this resignation. In the shadow of this concern, the general situation in all the country's eastern provinces remains calm and affairs are running very normally. This morning we noticed the presence of some Army units stationed in some strategic points outside the towns. We also noticed that all institutions, markets, and shops are operating normally. In short, we say that the situation in general is calm in eastern Algeria.

Democratic Slogans Appear in Bechar

LD1201132192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] As for the general situation in the southwest of the homeland, this report has arrived from Bechar:

[Unidentified correspondent] Everything is normal here in the southwestern province, and nothing distinguishes today from other days. This morning children went to schools and employees went to work.

The only thing we noticed this morning while wandering the streets of the town of Bechar was slogans written on the walls, slogans such as Algeria Is Democratic, Neither Kabul nor Khartoum; and No to Khartoum, No to Retardation, Long Live Democracy. Some leaflets were distributed at the doors of cafes and commercial shops last night. They say Our Army is Popular and Republican and is the Protector of Democracy; and No Tehran and No Khartoum, Algeria Is Not Afghanistan. These leaflets were written in Arabic and French.

Public Life 'Very Normal' 13 Jan

LD1301011292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] In the national arena yesterday, and after the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid, citizens who were surprised by the resignation were waiting and watching for future developments. Many citizens have expressed reservations about this event, along with great conviction that Algeria will overcome these critical developments in safety and security. They affirm that historical experience has taught the Algerian people to be up to all forms of challenges facing their civilizational march. It should be mentioned that public life was very normal yesterday throughout the country.

'Complete Calm' Reigns 14 Jan

LD1401111192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Three days after the resignation of the president of the Republic, the general situation is characterized by complete calm. Citizens are actively going about their business as usual. [passage omitted]

'Council of State' To Be Created

LD1201125792 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] In the coming hours a Council of State is expected to be set up and to declare a state of emergency in Algeria. This is an exclusive piece of news from Antenne-2, detailed here by Gerard Sebag:

[Sebag] Yes, absolutely. The scenario expected to unfold this evening in Algiers is as follows: A meeting of the Constitutional Council, whose chairman, Mr. Benhabyles, is assuming the post of interim president, along with the Security Council, which includes Prime Minister Ghozali, Defense Minister General Nezzar, the chief of staff; as well as the interior minister.

They will announce the dissolution of these two bodies and the creation of a Council of State. The latter will essentially include Prime Minister Ghozali, Chief of Staff Gen. Nezzar, and other military and civilian figures, including Mr. Haroun, the chairman of the Human Rights League. They will announce that the democratic process has not been called into question. They intend to examine the long-term evolution of Algeria. Political parties will not be dissolved.

Because the Constitution is suspended, however, the second round of general elections is canceled, as well as the first. The presidential elections which should take place within 45 days are postponed, but they will be held between June and September. This is an exclusive piece of news from Antenne-2.

Army Forced Bendjedid To Resign

NC1301144592 Paris AFP in English 1402 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, Jan 13 (AFP)—Algeria's top military chiefs forced President Chadli Bendjedid to resign because they were certain he had made a deal with Muslim fundamentalists to sack them, well-informed sources said Monday.

Chadli had promised Abdelkader Hachani, acting leader of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), to purge the military in exchange for being allowed to see out the rest of his presidential mandate, until December 1993, the military, the sources said.

The two struck their bargain after the FIS took an unassailable lead in last month's first round of Algeria's first *multiparty general* election, according to the sources.

Chadli announced his resignation on Saturday, just days ahead of Thursday's second round of voting. That was seen as almost certain to give the fundamentalists a huge parliamentary majority, and allow them to turn Algeria into an Islamic republic.

A High Security Council including key cabinet ministers with top Army rank has taken control and on Sunday cancelled the elections.

Chadli's office has denied any direct contact between Chadli and Hachani, but the sources said the FIS leader had been dealing with the secretary-general in the presidency, Abdelaziz Khellaf.

Interior Minister Labir Belhair, one of Algeria's top three Army officers with other key cabinet colleagues, discreetly informed European Community (EC) ambassadors of Chadli's resignation announcement at least two hours before Chadli went on television to make it, the sources said.

FIS Reacts to Bendjedid Resignation

Resignation 'Unconstitutional'

LD1301190392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] A fresh reaction from the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] was issued today in the following statement: The statement considers the resignation of the president as unconstitutional and emphasizes that the Higher Security Council is but a consultative body in accordance with the text of the Constitution, and that it has no right to assume power in the country, neither according to popular legitimacy nor to constitutional legitimacy.

The situation is extremely grave, the statement further says, and we must prepare ourselves for all eventualities to save the country, its sovereignty, and its sons.

In conclusion, the FIS leadership statement calls on the people to protect its [Islamic] project and choice, and to reject any conspiracy aimed at confiscating its will and obstructing the process of change.

The FIS statement also urges the people to show vigilance and caution and to prepare themselves for all eventualities dictated by the supreme interest of Islam and Algeria.

Calls on People, Army To 'Rise Up'

LD1301195592 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1900 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] [Announcer] Since yesterday the reaction of the Islamic Salvation Front to the cancelation of the legislative elections has been awaited. This evening the FIS called on the Army and the people to fight to block the authorities. Mathieu Aron is on the line live from Algiers. Mathieu:

[Aron] Yes, the FIS has just adopted a very firm position. It has called on the people and the Army to unite against the Algerian authorities. It asks all war veterans, religious leaders, officers, soldiers, and sons of martyrs to rise up against these authorities, which the FIS accuses of treason. Furthermore, the FIS considers the resignation of the president unconstitutional. From the communique it appears that the movement's hard-liners have prevailed over the moderates. Certain members of the FIS reproached acting FIS leader Hachani for leading the FIS into the electoral process, and this evening they are taking their revenge. The reaction of those in the street is now awaited here. This is Mathieu Aron for France-Inter Radio in Algiers.

[Announcer] Thank you, Mathieu. The Islamic fundamentalists thus want the Algerian people to unite against the authorities. As you said, the FIS has not yet specified what form this fight against the authorities in place should take. For the time being, the situation in Algiers is calm. There are still tanks and soldiers around strategic buildings, but there are no signs of tension.

Merani Criticizes Hachani, Praises Ghozali

LD1101165292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] In an interview with a special LE FIGARO correspondent in Algiers, Cheikh Merani, one of the founding members of the Islamic Salvation Front, said that Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani and Rabah Kebir, a member of the current FIS leadership, had reached the leadership of this party through an internal coup since the beginning of the election campaign. Cheikh Merani said that the discourse of the FIS corresponds in every aspect to the discourse of the single party as it was before 1988, and that it made use of all means such as demagoguery and calumnies to reach power.

Cheikh Merani explained on the other hand that the head of the government, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, must remain in his position as he proved his ability and honesty during the last six months. He said that the current government is considered the best government Algeria has known since independence. Cheikh Merani pointed out that he could have taken part in the march for democracy which Ait Ahmed had called for on the condition that the FIS was not made out to be a scary ghost.

Ait Ahmed Assails 'Coup,' Warns of Civil War

LD1301212592 Paris Radio France International in French 1915 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [Announcer] This evening in Algeria the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] called on the people and the Army to unite against the Algerian authorities, who

have canceled the legislative elections. The fundamentalist movement calls on the people, I quote, to prepare themselves *for all eventualities* [words indistinct].

[Correspondent Anne Dissez in Algiers] [Words indistinct] at the moment there is complete calm in the streets, and for the time being only the parties are reacting, but there is no guarantee that the people will follow them. Thus, we could expect the Higher Security Council to fairly quickly announce a ban particularly on the FIS, and I think this is the conclusion of its task, and in any case a state of emergency, possibly, if the situation required it.

[Announcer] Thank you, Anne Dissez. We have a first reaction to this call by the FIS—that of Hocine Ait Ahmed, president of the Socialist Forces Front, whose party was in second place after the first round of legislative elections. Mr. Ait Ahmed was the guest of our colleagues at the third television station. Just now they asked him whether there is a risk of civil war in Algeria:

[Begin Ait Ahmed recording] I think that the coup d'etat in itself is already a type of violence, especially because now they are not even keeping up appearances—the Higher Security Council is only a consultative body, and they are constantly giving it importance as an authority, as a decisionmaking body. This is anticonstitutional, and anticonstitutional cooperation is called a coup d'etat. Starting out from this point, how can one maintain control over the people in the streets? I hope that the FIS can master its troops and that they do not become involved in operations which run the risk of opening the door to civil war. I hope also that there will be no provocation and that there will not be these unmarked police vehicles which can provoke irreparable occurrences, as in June and in October 1990. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Political Parties React to Government Actions

Democratic Generation Praises Resignation

LD1401064692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] In a statement yesterday the Democratic Generation Party said that Chadli Bendjedid's rational act offers a great service to the nation and that his departure will undoubtedly help to crystallize political dialogue and give democracy a new chance.

Workers Party Criticizes 'Coup'

LD1401011792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0100 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] The Workers Party has described the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid and the interruption of the electoral process a real coup d'etat. In a statement released on Monday night, the Workers Party denounced this action and termed it a blow to the people's will and a protection of the regime's privileges, and also a consecration of the policy of submissiveness to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the European Community by the governments which will come after Chadli Bendjedid.

Boumedienist Rally Urges Salvation Council

LD1301070692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Algerian Islamic Boumedienist Rally has recorded its regret over the difficult choice that the president of the Republic made.

In its statement, it calls for finding a new formula for responsible national action through the setting up of a provisional national salvation council which will take the place of the present government. This council will be composed of national figures who believe in the constant principles and will be headed by the Constitutional Council.

Democratic Movement Calls for Council

LD1401065192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] The Democratic Movement for the Renewal of Algeria has proposed the formation of a council of wise men to be entrusted with the basic task of restoring hope to the Algerian people and leading the country calmly until the holding of presidential elections within a reasonable period.

People's Union Urges 'Early' Elections

LD1301070992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] In its statement the Algerian People's Union calls on the government to complete the legislative elections, respect the people's will, and hold early presidential elections in accordance with the text of the Constitution.

The party calls on the public to maintain vigilance and calm and to be cautious about conspiracies which lead to peril.

Human Rights League Calls for Front

LD1401070392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] The Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights considers the unjustified and sudden halting of the democratic march to be a military coup that led to the suspension of the Constitution. It calls for the formation of a front for the defense of democracy so as to halt dangers and to return to the law and popular legitimacy.

Socialist Vanguard, Solidarity Parties

LD1201164492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Reactions inside the country to President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation: The National Union for

Youth has urged all Algerian youths to show awareness and alertness to the serious situation in the country.

For its part, the PAGS [Socialist Vanguard Party] party, in a statement delivered to the radio station, believes that the resignation of President Chadli opens new scopes. [passage omitted]

The National Party for Solidarity and Development expressed, concerning President Bendjedid's resignation, its strong faith in the ability of the Algerian people and the National People's Army to transcend the current stage with wisdom and peace. [passage omitted]

Socialist Vanguard, People's Union Parties

LD1301110992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Socialist Vanguard Party released a statement saying that the president's resignation is a measure which will save the country because it ends an alleged democratic process which could have led the country along the road of despotic, dark fundamentalist hegemony. The culmination of this would have been the establishment of a theocratic state.

In its statement, the Algerian People's Union Party called on the government to complete the legislative elections, respect the people's will, and hold early presidential elections in accordance with the stipulations of the Constitution. The party called on the public to be attentive and calm and to be aware of conspiracies leading to dangerous events.

Algerian Renewal Party

LD1201163792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Here is the reaction of the Renewal Party:

[Unidentified speaker] The Algerian Renewal Party, because it is confident about the new situation, calls everyone to bear their responsibilities, and in particular political officials, regardless of their politics, in order to stand up to any call for violence and confusion. May peace and the blessings of God be with you.

PRA's Boukrouh Comments

LD1301155492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1200 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] For the time being there has been little or no reaction to the Higher Security Council decisions. The Algerian Renewal Party [PRA] alone reacted this morning. PRA leader Boukrouh said that he does not believe in a coup and that the events of the past hours are the by-products of an accident—the president's resignation.

[Begin Boukrouh recording] We believe that the task under way now on the governmental level, on the Higher Security Council level, has a fully legal character. We believe that this is a job which comes within the logic of the Constitution. It seems today that our Constitutions did not make provision for one contingency: the situation we are facing now following the resignation of the president of the Republic between two voting rounds and in the absence of a National Assembly. We do not believe in the theory of a coup; rather, we believe that following this accidental incident there should be a quest for solutions in accordance with the law, the Constitution, and legality. [end recording]

Committee for Preservation of Algeria

LD1201152192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Amid the reactions it has received, the national radio station has received a statement from the National Committee for the Preservation of Algeria which says:

Following the resignation of the president of the Republic, the National Committee for the Preservation of Algeria [NCPA] calls on all workers, both male and female, and the directors of national organizations, supervisors, and all forces in the country to rally around the values of the Republic and the defense of the Constitution.

The NCPA calls on citizens to show more vigilance than at any previous time against any attempt to disrupt the country's stability.

Social Democratic Party

LD1201142692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] A Social Democratic Party [PSD] official, responding to Bendjedid's resignation, said the following:

[Begin unidentified PSD official recording] What we hope is that the people will be vigilant and cautious in this present stage through which the country is passing, in order to realize democracy in the country. The people are used to overcoming difficulties because this is not the first crisis that the Algerian people have faced. We hope they will overcome it. They have overcome harder times. Thanks to their wisdom and reason, they overcame all the difficulties that they faced.

The PSD asks the Algerian people to be cautious and to bolster their unity and solidarity during the present difficult times through which the country is passing. [end recording]

Rally for Culture, Democracy

LD1301070392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0200 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Rally for Culture and Democracy believes that the resignation of the Republic's president undoubtedly represents the end of a historic stage.

From this arises the duty to attend to the fact that the new phase must be based on foundations which have no

link with past practices so that the Algerian people can express their will with all freedom and in an atmosphere of peace.

Newspapers Assess Bendjedid Resignation

LD1201160992 Algiers APS in English 1337 GMT 12 Jan 92

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, Jan 12 (APS)—The resignation of President Chadli [Bendjedid] is subject to numerous commentaries in Sunday dailies of the national press. Under the title "Resignation, and Then?", LE MATIN daily writes "Chadli's departure will create a new institutional situation that must be cooly managed with responsibility and courage without giving in to ill consciousness merchants". "But Algeria, the daily carries on, has always had this dexterity to resort to its sons within the most difficult moments. This very country that is coming to its mind, will be harsh, demanding, determined and without angelism". The same daily concludes "Algeria avoided the worst but does expect the better: a real economic approach that would be in harmony with the century, a social policy, the break up with the speech and the men of the past...."

EL-WATAN daily writes "President Chadli's gesture mainly tends to forestall a crisis that could go out of control and call the fundamental equilibrium of Algeria into question. In this conception of things and perspective, it is a gesture that would be certainly qualified as being wise and constructive.

The daily notes in its commentary entitled "New Process", that this gesture "also guarantees a constitutional solution to the current situation and seems to (?preserve) the chances of the edification of a democratic society. The transition seems to have been minutely prepared so as not to lapse into inadapted solutions of another era", "but the great unknown comes now from the next behaviour of FIS (Islamic Salvation Front)," the daily asserts.

LE QUOTIDIEN D'ALGERIE tackles the same subject under the title "For When the Hope?". It writes "again Algeria 13 years after the death of former President Boumediene finds itself within the same situation of the vacancy of the power but circumstances are however different. This very situation calls upon all the components of the Algerian society to raise above all junctural events and give a new [word indistinct] of maturity to the world that observes us".

"At a time when the Maghreb keeps its breath and cautiously follows what is going on in our country, the daily carries on, Algeria particularly needs calm and all its sons to build up a harmonious world, a world of concord and serenity, a world that breaks up with all way cleavages and discord, with all those who riddled "fitna" (civil unstability) and even cohesion within the family first and then expand it to the whole nation. [sentence as received]

Egypt

Efforts To End Libyan-Western Crisis Viewed

NC1001074292 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 5 Jan 92 p 3

[Kamal 'Adil report from Cairo]

[Excerpts] Egypt continues its diplomatic efforts with the United States and Europe to seek a rational and acceptable solution to the crisis between Libya and the Western nations. When Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa discussed the issue with the U.S., UK, and French ambassadors, a Libyan delegation representing the leadership of the revolutionary committees and the people's congresses had just concluded meetings with Egyptian officials. The delegation presented the officials with new documents proving Libya "innocent" of the charges of detonating a French and an American plane in 1988 and 1989.

Sources in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said Egypt requested the governments of the accusing countries to close the file once and for all, since there is no justification for their claim from a legal point of view: The accusations are not substantiated by evidence and the accused party has categorically denied any connection with the incident. Moreover, any political action against Libya is bound to have detrimental effects on peace and stability in the Middle East because, even if the western states have connections with some 2,000 Libyan opposition members—mostly Muslim brothers—and Libyan soldiers who fled Chad, Libya has methods to defend its regime. Moreover, it has long-standing connections with organizations capable of shaking peace and stability in more than one place in the world, including Washington, D.C. and its sisters London and Paris. [passage omitted]

Military analyst General Muhammad Fawzi, former Egyptian defense minister, says that since 1986, after the surprise American attack on al-Qadhdhafi's residence in al-'Aziziyah, most of the Libyan Air Force, medium-range Scud missiles (600 kilometers), and the headquarters of Libyan leaders have been moved to fortified underground locations. Moreover, Fawzi adds, the Libyan people themselves have been immunized against any American attempts to incite a bloody coup against al-Qadhdhafi, since the latter gave up the reins of freedom and investment four years ago and organized his people into people's congresses that are even more concerned with defending the regime than the leadership is.

In addition, there are over one million Arab nationals residing in Libya, half of them are Egyptians and the rest are Palestinians, Sudanese, and other Arab nationalities. Any military aggression against the Jamahiriyah is bound to inflict heavy losses on those Arab citizens, whose population is equal to that of the Libyans themselves. Naturally, the states to which these citizens belong will not stand still.

For all of these reasons collectively, Egypt is seeking a peaceful solution to the issue of the accusations against

Libya. In this context, the Egyptian foreign minister, as well as the Arab League secretary general, met with the ambassadors of the three countries.

It is rumored that 'Amr Musa will tour a number of European capitals to persuade them to put pressure on the U.S. Administration to close the matter. The tour will take Musa to Lisbon, Madrid, and Rome.

In the meantime, high-ranking Egyptian security officials have furnished the Libyan leadership with serious information on what is known as the Libyan opposition abroad, on which Washington depends upon considerably to run matters in case a sudden military operation succeeds. Egyptian sources have refused to reveal any details on this issue. Some of these sources claim that reports on this matter are untrue.

Musa, Indian Foreign Minister Comment on Talks

NC1301214092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and India began today at the Foreign Ministry. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa led the Egyptian delegation to the talks, while Indian Foreign Minister Mahdav Singh Solanki, who arrived in Cairo this morning, chaired the Indian side.

The Egyptian-Indian discussions focused on Middle East developments in light of the current effort to bolster the peace process, coordinating the two countries' positions prior to the next Nonaligned Movement [NAM] meeting, and bilateral ties.

Following the first round of talks, which lasted two hours, the Indian foreign minister said they discussed international and regional issues and the situations in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

He added that they will discuss bilateral relations during a second round of talks. Noting that Egypt and India are Third World countries, he said that close cooperation between them is important, particularly within the NAM, which, he said, must become more effective in handling Third World problems.

The Indian minister remarked that the current trend is to bolster economic cooperation among the Nonaligned countries, particularly as political groupings within the movement no longer exist.

On issues of bilateral interest, the Indian minister said that they include all fields such as technical and academic cooperation.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that the Third World's major countries must play an effective role in international relations. He noted that the countries of the North must not alone define what the new world order is, declaring: We must give our opinion. We believe that the Third World countries, the Nonaligned countries, and other developing nations must unite in a single movement to tackle their problems and define a course for themselves.

'Amr Musa asserted that the major countries of this group can make important contributions to discussions involving such important issues as disarmament, economic development, international security, and the future of the United Nations because these issues concern all countries.

Asked about a reported divergence of views between Egypt and India over the NAM's future, 'Amr Musa said: There is no disagreement. We are merely offering different views and having a dialogue on the matter. I still believe that the NAM is not in a satisfactory condition and that it is falling from the required standard. Therefore, we must reconsider this situation not merely by changing the movement's name, but by changing its principles to bring them in line with the requirements of the next century and the future of the developing nations.

On the situation in Yugoslavia, which is a NAM founding member, 'Amr Musa said: We regret the situation there and hope that the Yugoslav people will agree among themselves and determine their future without fighting and bloodshed. We are willing to listen to their viewpoint.

He added that the NAM has decided to convene a foreign ministers meeting in Cyprus to discuss the situation in Yugoslavia.

Answering a question on the situation in Iraq one year after the Gulf crisis ended and the call for toppling President Saddam Husayn, 'Amr Musa said that the situation in Iraq remains serious, but as to the issue of leadership, that is a matter that should be left to the Iraqi people.

Israeli Counterfeiter Sentenced To Hard Labor

NC1201112992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2113 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—The Cairo criminal court today sentenced an Israeli named Muqbil Yusuf Shufani to 10 years hard labor for circulating forged 100-dollar bills.

AL-AKHBAR reports in its Sunday edition that, following the circulation of counterfeit dollars in amusement and gambling salons in major hotels, the public assets intelligence department ambushed and arrested the convict with a large amount of forged dollars in his possession. He admitted he brought the money from abroad.

Interior Minister Denies Inmates Tortured

NC1201170292 Cairo MENA in English 1620 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, Jan 12 (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa today denied reports carried by a number of foreign radio stations that inmates inside Egyptian prisons or those detained by police stations were subject to torture.

In statements today, Musa challenged anyone to bring forth a single case of torture inside prisons or in police stations.

He further voiced his readiness to receive any representatives from the human rights organization or any other organization concerned and let them inspect Egyptian prisons to make sure that inmates were well treated.

Professors Demand More Freedom, New Constitution

NC1301162592 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Majdi Hilmi and Mahmud Hijazi]

[Excerpt] Al-Mansurah—There were heated discussions on public and university issues yesterday at the 64th conference of university teachers clubs' members in al-Mansurah.

The teachers demanded that university students be given freedom on campus and that a formula be developed for cooperation between the university and police.

During their debates, the professors criticized university authorities, claiming that they are more detrimental to the university than any intervention by security forces. They explained that the security forces can intervene only after obtaining written permission from the university administration.

The professors also criticized expelling students before investigating their cases, and maintained that this turns students into destructive tools.

The professors demanded that political freedom be encouraged in Egypt to protect democracy. They cautioned that the constant oppression may divide the people from the ruler and that this oppression helps feed the people's outrage.

The teachers called for developing a new democratic constitution and immediately to begin electing a constituent assembly to draw up that constitution. They demanded that price increases be coupled with an equivalent increase in wages.

The professors maintained that all the difficulties witnessed in Egypt in the last two months have been the result of wide-spread anarchy, corruption, and negligence by the government apparatus, which undermines Egypt's national security. [passage omitted]

U.S.-Israeli Clashes Over Talks Noted

NC1401071592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Under the headlines "Toward Conflict," the newspaper AL-AHRAM wrote in its "Opinion" column: The U.S.-Israeli friction over Middle East issues has begun to clearly emerge after being expected for a long time. The column referred to the clear warning issued by the United States to Israel on the need to stop its settlement activities in the occupied territories in return for governmental loan guarantees of $10 billion.

The paper clarified that on the other hand, there is an Israeli protest over the recent resolution issued by the UN Security Council with the approval of the United States that condemns Israel for expelling 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories and demands that they be returned. The Israeli protest is addressed to Washington because it has, in effect, approved considering Jerusalem a part of the occupied territories.

The paper expressed its belief that these beginnings necessarily prophesy future differences which might reach the stage of clashes when the bilateral talks on essential issues actually begin.

Libya

Editor Warns UN Against Lockerbie Resolution

LD1401074592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Jan (JANA)—The JANA political editor said that, if the UN Security Council passes the draft resolution put forward by the U.S., Britain, and France, it would be an indication that the fate of the United Nations is like that of the League of Nations, thus the beginning of the decline of international values, the collapse of international law, and the entering of the age of real terrorism and flouting.

'Fabricated Allegations' by U.S. Viewed

LD1201235392 Tripoli JANA in English 0900 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Athens, A'ina Al-Nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The International Organisation for Progress, a nongovernmental organisation which enjoys a consultative status at the United Nations, expressed its deep concern over the fabricated allegations, threats and the embargo which has been, and still, taken by the U.S. against Great Jamahiriyah. In a letter to the Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and the president of the security council, the President of the Organisation Henz Kochler stressed that the American threats and economic measures against Libya contravened the spirit of the charter of the United Nations and in particular its Article 33. The Organisation called for the protection of the independent legal inquiry from being hindered by the American, French and British allegations.

Also, it called for support for the policy of constructive dialogue amongst peoples so as to contain this crisis in a manner which may meet the requirements of protecting the charter of the United Nations.

The Organisation welcomed Great Jamahiriyah's call to judges in America and Britain to take part in the investigations in accordances with the provisions of Libyan law and recognized international law.

Cooperation With French Investigators Pledged

LD1301100792 Tripoli JANA in English 0841 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jan (JANA)—The French lawyer N. Orosoli recently visited the Great Jamahiriyah and met the magistrate investigating the case of the French airliner UTA.

The local affairs editor in JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY described the news of this visit as a first serious step towards revealing the facts. The visit was to have been made when the Libyans were first accused by the French magistrate on the basis of suppositions which have crumbled one after the other.

The editor stressed the statement of the French lawyer Orsoli that the only way to emerge from this affair is through the adoption of dialogue among the parties concerned.

The editor indicated that the Great Jamahariyah has repeatedly demonstrated its readiness to co-operate with the French investigating magistrates and to provide them with all the facilities needed to carry out their mission.

The editor also indicated to what had been confirmed by the Libyan investigating magistrate that he was ready to travel to France and meet the French investigators to familiarise them with the investigations that had taken place in the Great Jamahiriyah and to agree to methods for following up the case until all the factors regarding this issue are revealed.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iranian Majles Delegation

LD1201092592 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received the delegation of the Majlis in Iran which is composed of brother Ahmad 'Azizi, deputy speaker of the Iranian Majles, Rasul Musawi, and (Mahdi Sa'id Al-Daklein), members of the Majles in Iran, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Ne'matollah, adviser to the Iranian foreign minister. During this meeting they emphasized their total support, and the standing of the Iranian revolution with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and its leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in his courageous confrontation of the prejudiced crusade. The Iranian delegation also affirmed during their meeting with the brother leader that all the Iranian people support Libya, and that it puts all its capabilities at the disposal of the Arab people of Libya in the face of this campaign.

Al-Qadhdhafi on Domestic, International Events

PY0301180092 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish (Sunday Supplement) 29 Dec 91 pp 8, 9

[Report on "exclusive" interview with leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by former Nicaraguan minister Tomas Borge; place and date not given—passages in boldface are editorial comments]

[Text] [Borge] You are like the eye of a storm when you visit any place in the world. You are considered a point of reference; no one can escape your magnetism, not even your enemies. A man such as you must have an opinion on his role in the history of Libya and the Arab world. What is that opinion?

[al-Qadhdhafi] My duty, Tomas, is to support the decision of the masses to be owners of their destiny. Humanity's history is long, monotonous, unfair, and painful. We are at the beginning of a new era. My role is to help and to serve, not exactly to preach in the desert.

[Borge] Do you see yourself more as a preacher or perhaps a prophet, than as a ruler?

[al-Qadhdhafi] I am not a ruler. Neither am I a prophet, at least a prophet of God. We consider ourselves prophets only because we announce the dawning of the masses. We fight for a happy world. On our lips, justice and equality are not just words.

Al-Qadhdhafi spoke quickly, with passion. The excessive whiteness of his clothing contrasted with his tired countenance.

Today Libya is a happy nation because it is free. It has been happy since the night of al-Fateh, the night we decided not to have a master. Since then we have struggled to make the people the owners of the state apparatus.

[Borge] Have you succeeded?

[al-Qadhdhafi] It has not been easy; it is not easy. It is more difficult to achieve good results or an expedient administration than to skin a live camel at noon in the desert. We are realizing that the third universal theory is applicable in practice. We are confident.

al-Qadhdhafi pauses, join his hands, and adds:

Our revolution is a nice caress that will cover all world inhabitants. I say this after examining world events, the growing struggle of peoples against unfairness and government apparatuses.

[Borge] The third universal theory, as I understand it, predicts the end of governments. Would that not invite anarchy?

[al-Qadhdhafi] Governments are on the way to extinction.

The Libyan leader did not elaborate. I reminded him of his remarks against capitalism and asked him about Marxism.

The world has changed. It has repeatedly borrowed solutions from the capitalist and Marxist systems. But, what has been achieved? Without a doubt, capitalism is a great swindle. Marxism, even though applying opposing formulas, has also failed. Injustice has prevailed under different covers, leaving deep marks on human existence.

[Borge] In light of this situation, what can we expect for the future?

[al-Qadhdhafi] If you look beyond the horizon, you will see the era of the masses shining. It is there, inviting you. It is the jamahiriyah phase when power will be in the people's hands. For the time being, the revolutionary committees are a sort of oasis in the desert; the day will come when the people will no longer be exploited, when their freedom and love will no longer be repressed.

It is well worth the while to now and again tour the historic Green Square. This is where the crowds gather to shout their slogans. Nearby is the marketplace, the heart of the ancient city, where you can purchase all the gold chains, rings, and snakes in the world and where decisions, at al-Qadhdhafi's suggestion, on international alliances are reached.

[Borge] Is it true that there are plans for a political alliance between Libya and Sudan?

[al-Qadhdhafi] We have always upheld the political unity of the Arab countries.

[Borge] Is the peace initiative proposed by Libya during the Persian Gulf war still in force?

[al-Qadhdhafi] I believe that out of all the proposals that were made, ours was the only feasible one. Among other things, it proposes a unified Arab oil policy and a solution to the debts and indemnities for the parties involved in the conflict.

All this would be sponsored by the United Nations and the Arab League. The rejection of our proposal sparked the war.

Al-Qadhdhafi does not smoke or drink, he kneels down to pray five times a day and is very affectionate with his friends. According to those close to him, he is frequently moved. He usually uses sunglasses while watching movies or when he has to embrace certain people.

[Borge] I have been told that you like to mingle with the people....

[al-Qadhdhafi] In a revolutionary person, love for his fellow man is something that flows quite naturally. How else could it be?

[Borge] In addition to being a leader of the jamahiriyah, you are a leader of the Arab world. How is your relationship with that mysterious world, unknown to us in the Western Hemisphere, in which, nevertheless, we are very interested and concerned about?

[al-Qadhdhafi] Our relations are marked by geopolitical signs. Some say we had the misfortune of being rich in oil—which only increased the thirst of colonialists—in addition to our strategic geographic location. All this represents a challenge to our revolutionary spirit. Our relations with the Arab world are not free of differences, but common points of view prevail. We have always been willing to make the greatest sacrifices in the effort to materialize the noble principles of the Arab nation. The Arabs will be united in a not too distant future; and the same will happen with other countries of the world. Someday we will become a great family—that is, when the masses establish their kingdom on earth.

[Borge] It is said that the Palestinian struggle is currently the Arab people's main cause. What is your position, and what role do you play in the effort to give the Palestinians their own nation?

Al-Qadhdhafi looks at me as if to say: You know my answer. Nevertheless, he answers:

[al-Qadhdhafi] It is true; the Palestinian people's struggle is something we carry deep inside ourselves. We are not racists; we respect the Jewish people's right to live safely in any part of the world, even Palestine. We are against Zionism, a racist ideology. Not only the Arabs, but also the Jews are victims of this crude ideology. The Palestinian cause should concern the entire world.

[Borge] By the way, what do you think about human rights?

[al-Qadhdhafi] I think every human being should be respected. Carter frequently spoke about human rights. Reagan, in contrast, said he struggled against international terrorism. Of course, this struggle did not include the Mafia, the Bader-Meinhof gang, or the Ku Klux Klan, only national liberation movements. It was even said that Libya was the center of international terrorism and that it would be a good thing to get rid of our revolutionary state. As is well known, Reagan not only unleashed a campaign of slander but he did things. In his alleged struggle against terrorism he did not hesitate to use the cruelest methods. Does this not represent a violation of human rights?

[Borge] Are you talking about the U.S. Air Force attack against your home that resulted in the death of your little daughter, Hanna?

Al-Qadhdhafi did not answer with words but rather with a look in which you could see flashes of anger and sadness. There was no bitterness in that look.

[Borge] I believe that Carter once said that he would never forgive the killer of one of his dear ones. If something like that happened to me, I think I would seek revenge from the main culprit. Do you feel hate or resentment over this incident?

[al-Qadhdhafi] No. I do not have room for hate in my heart. A revolutionary has to make great sacrifices. You know that well because you also lost some of you dear ones in your struggle, and you forgave the murderers. Imperialism is criminal by nature and imperialist peoples are victims of aberrant instincts. When governments disappear—and the dictatorships with them—imperialism will be only a bad memory. Crimes or exploitations will no longer be the case. Then those who fell in the bombardments of Tripoli and Banghazi, and the millions of victims of so many genocides, will rest in peace. It will be as if they were born again.

[Borge] What does Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi think about when he looks at the horizon in the middle of the desert?

[al-Qadhdhafi] I confirm the power of life. I guess the result of fulfilled hopes, the beginning of the era of the government of the masses.

I have known him for over a decade. I even know something about his private life. But I am interviewing him and I have to ask this question:

[Borge] Do you have a family? How many children do you have? Are you happy at home?

[al-Qadhdhafi] I have a family that I love. I have seven children, and I am happy at home.

I was surprised to see women dressed Western style and to see others still wearing long white clothing but with their faces uncovered in the Green Square. This is mentioned in political circles, in luxurious hotels, receptions, and above all, in peoples' congresses: Al-Qadhdhafi is the flag bearer in the struggle for women's equality. He once said that it was not a sin for women to uncover their faces, and since then beautiful Moorish faces have been seen in the streets of Tripoli, Banghazi, Misratah, Sabha, and Tobruk.

[Borge] What is your opinion of male and female equality?

[al-Qadhdhafi] Women, as human beings, have the same rights as men. Discrimination against women, like discrimination against any man, is unjustified and inadmissible. Men and women love, work, eat, and drink—that is, they have the same basic needs. Of course, there is a natural difference between them; each has a different role. For instance, women should not perform excessively harsh or dangerous tasks. They handle delicate tasks better than men. Sometimes these tasks are more difficult and beautiful. Women are not consumer goods or objects to be purchased or sold.

[Borge] We know you are concerned about everything that happens around the world and we would like to ask: What is your opinion of the future of Latin America?

[al-Qadhdhafi] There is a challenging struggle going on in Latin America, which is fertile ground for revolutions because the people there are tired of the almost colonial slavery in which they live. Latin America is fighting for economic integration as a way to confront imperialism. I trust Latin Americans and their instincts toward power.

[Borge] What can you tell us about Nicaragua?

[al-Qadhdhafi] A real revolution triumphed in Nicaragua. With all due respect for you, the leaders of that process, I think you were slow and imposed limitations on the installation of the people's power. It is not too late yet. Sandinism still has the capacity, strength, popular support, intuition, and above all, the wisdom gained through revolutionary practice.

[Borge] Do you believe that terms like imperialism, Zionism, racism, and fascism now mean the same thing?

[al-Qadhdhafi] No. They are a part of an inevitable terminology. Imperialism must be called imperialism. To fight against expressions of malignity is a responsibility of the human race, a collective fight, the legitimacy of which is based on an implacable logic. Anyway, it is a way to express our feeling of love for the human race.

[Borge] Do you believe that U.S. imperialism will be eternal?

[al-Qadhdhafi] No imperialism is eternal. Not even the Roman Empire was eternal. Yankee imperialism will be short lived; it is already crisis ridden, especially with respect to moral values. Someday the American people will be free of imperialism together with all the other peoples of the world.

I have seen you ride fiery horses with the same passion you put into the most fiery speeches on Arab nationalism, the Green Revolution, and the third universal theory. That is why I now ask you:

[Borge] Tell me, why do you like horses so much?

[al-Qadhdhafi] I am Arab. A horse is an extension of our legs. To ride is to go beyond everything. When you are riding a horse you are challenging the wind. When you ride in the desert one discovers that there is sufficient water under the sand and that our eyes only look at the horizon. When I take the reins of a horse in my hands, I feel fire in my bowels and the clear conviction that someday the people will take the reins of history.

[Borge] The untamed horse of history has one-by-one knocked over the bureaucratic and authoritarian regimes of East Europe. I do not forget that some years ago you, in Belgrade, prophesied the fall of the Berlin Wall and the withdrawal of the troops that had been occupying that city since World War II. What are your thoughts now on these events?

[al-Qadhdhafi] The Berlin Wall only had the strength of its cement; in other words, the men lacked a very strong will. A breath of history was enough to knock it down. Among other things, the German people always repudiated the presence of foreign troops on their territory. I still have my thoughts about these events, which confirm the inefficiency of Marxism and the validity of the third universal theory. History has proven us right.

It is known that Libya was an Italian colony from 1912 to the end of World War II. The fascists tried to enslave the Libyans. Libya was proclaimed a monarchy in 1951. A movement of young officers headed by al-Qadhdhafi installed the republic in 1969. The Green Revolution, which is based on the third universal theory, began shortly afterward.

[Borge] Do you personally still have any animosity toward the Italians for the crimes that the colonialists of that country committed against your people?

[al-Qadhdhafi] No. What remains is the memory. We will never forget the sacrifice, the grief, and the heroism. It serves to reaffirm our desire to be free. We make every effort to maintain the best possible relations with the countries that imposed the colonial yoke. The present generation should not have to pay for the sins of bygone hangmen.

[Borge] I know that you are a sensitive person, an aspect that is not known all that much in the West. That is why I ask: Are you a poet? Do you like poetry? Who is your favorite poet?

[al-Qadhdhafi] I have a passion for the old Arab poets. Poetry tells the truth. It is the voice of the wise men, and I love truth and wisdom.

[Borge] What is the main wisdom that you have obtained from your experience as the leader of the Libyan people?

[al-Qadhdhafi] That there is no substitute for the people.

Many topics have been left out of this conversation with Mr. al-Qadhdhafi. I would have liked to have asked him for an evaluation of the Green Revolution, for details of the progress of the gargantuan task of extracting water from the Sahara's subterranean rivers, an undertaking which he believes will convert the desert into an orchard, with its second stage being dedicated on 28 August before the astounded eyes of the visitors, but we only had time for this last question:

[Borge] What will happen to Libya after al-Qadhdhafi?

[al-Qadhdhafi] The era of the developed popular power. The paradise of the masses.

Arab Parliamentary Union to Meet 14-15 January

LD1201185792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Jan (JANA)—The assistant secretary of the General People's Congress met in Tripoli this morning with 'Abd al-Rahman Abu-Rawi, the secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union who is now on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Discussions during this meeting, which also was attended by the secretary for People's Congresses at the General People's Congress, covered the current preparations for the convocation of the emergency session of the Arab Paraiamentary Union scheduled for 14-15 January in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Sahlul Denouces Egyptian Minister's Statement

EA1301191892 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jan (SUNA)—Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul Sunday denounced a recent statement by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in which he alleged that Sudan threatens the security of the states of the area as intended to instigate other states against the Sudan.

The foreign minister, in a statement to SUNA, expressed his deep astonishment of making such a statement by the chief Egyptian diplomat, which, [he] said, is totally untrue and baseless.

The Sudanese foreign minister questioned the timing of 'Amr's statement, saying that it came at a time when the two countries are working to improve their eternal ties by ending the mass media campaigns, reiterating the Sudan's full commitment to an agreement reached earlier between the two countries on halting of mass media campaigns against each other.

The statements of the Egyptian foreign minister are considered by us as tantamounting to the instigation of other countries against the Sudan and its government, Sahlul said, adding that they are also considered as supporting the forces seeking to undermine the solidarity of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Sahlul went on to say that the Egyptian foreign minister's statement also embodied an incitement of the Sudanese people against their government. A matter, he said, that contradicts the norms and (?conceptions), particularly among sister states.

"We express astonishment over the statement," Sahlul said, pointing out that "our brothers in Egypt know that the Sudan, in its dealing with the sisterly Arab countries, has been seeking cooperation based on the fraternity, respect of their sovereignty and the non-interference in the internal affairs of the others. The Sudan, taking this into consideration, is not plotting against any Arab or other country" Sahlul stressed.

He pointed out that the Sudan is now preoccupied by the building of its political and constitutional institutions rehabilitation of the economy and facing the challenges of the war in the South the indications of peace. [sentence as received]

He reaffirmed that Sudan, which is adhering to the positive construction policy, will give its back to all sorts of the negative enmity.

The foreign minister said Sudan calls on the others to refrain from interference in its internal affairs and not to host the plotters and terrorists. Sudan, Sahlul went on, further calls for the respect of the (?options) which have been adopted in a new reality in the Sudan based on original civilizational trend and the freedom of decision making.

The foreign minister expressed Sudan's total rejection for threats and warnings from any circle or any country.

Al-Bashir Sends Babangida Letter on Peace Talks

EA1001141492 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Sudan has confirmed its readiness to strive for the realization of a comprehensive and permanent peace in the South, for it is prepared to sit down for talks with all the factions of the rebel movement with a given schedule and at a time to be fixed by Nigeria. This was disclosed in a letter sent recently by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers chairman, to Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida in reply to a letter his excellency received from the Nigerian president on achieving peace in Sudan.

Police Brigadier General George Kongor, Bahr al-Ghazal governor and the head of the delegation which conveyed the letter, clarified that President Babangida had welcomed the letter and had confirmed Nigeria's readiness to make greater efforts to achieve peace in Sudan. Babangida gave reassurances on the existing relations binding Sudan and Nigeria, pointing out that his country could not be a party to talks leading to the division of Sudan. Brig. Gen. Kongor added that the Nigerian president had expressed his thanks to the Sudanese Government for its efforts to achieve peace.

Government Claims Victories in South

EA1001171092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Major General Muhammad 'Abdullah Uwaydah, official armed forces spokesman, has said that the armed forces are in full control of the military situation. They have achieved great combat successes in all the different theaters of operation, in accordance with their vows and sacred duty to rout the rebellion and destroy its foundations everywhere. At the same time, the heroes of the popular defense and the internal front are providing strong support in rear-echelon defense efforts with the armed forces and are advancing along with them in all theater battlelines with high morale and a ferocity that has angered the enemy.

Maj. Gen. Uwaydah clarified that the armed forces succeeded during the last week of December and the first week of January in destroying 30 rebel camps in southern Kurdufan, Darfur, Equatoria, and Bahr al-Ghazal. They inflicted large material and heavy personnel losses on the outlaws and captured large quantities of weapons and ammunition. During these operations our forces recovered large numbers of livestock stolen from the citizens.

The official military spokesman said that the outlaws' strength had weakened when faced with the determination of the armed forces and the popular defense forces. He said that the outlaws had begun to withdraw and flee from their camps.

[Paris AFP in French at 1603 GMT on 10 January, datelined London, reports: "A Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] spokesman today denied in London that the Sudanese Army had annihilated more than 3,000 of his men in Darfur (western Sudan). 'This is a lie; it is pure propaganda. Our forces are intact in Darfur, and they continue to advance,' said SPLA spokesman Mr. Richard Mulla."]

Government Revokes Ghannouchi Diplomatic Passport

LD0601214992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1913 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Tunis, 6 Jan (KUNA)—The Tunisian paper AL-BAYAN today quoted Sudanese Justice Minister Ahmad Mahmud Hasan as saying that his government had withdrawn the diplomatic passport that it had issued to the leader of the banned Tunisian fundamentalist al-Nahdah movement, Rached Ghannouchi.

The weekly paper also quoted him as saying that he hoped that this step, which he had discussed with Tunisian officials, would help in "clearing the clouds in relations between the two countries." Tunisia withdrew its ambassador in Khartoum in protest against what it had described as Sudan's harboring of Tunisian fundamentalist leaders seeking to undermine the regime in power in Tunisia and against issuing a Sudanese diplomatic passport to Tunisian opposition figure Rached Ghannouchi to facilitate his hostile movements. [passage omitted]

According to the Sudanese minister and to quote the Tunisian paper, his country "will not permit any Tunisian quarter to undertake activities in Sudan to oppose the regime in Tunisia, and Khartoum has kept its ambassador in Tunis out of its eagerness to preserve good Sudanese-Tunisian relations."

Tunisia

Government Closes, Reopens Border With Algeria

LD1301173792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Tunisian authorities yesterday closed the Algerian-Tunisian borders to Algerian travelers going to Tunisia, and then reopened them today. This was stated by the head of border guard security.

This measure was unilaterally taken by the Tunisian authorities, a matter which forced many Algerians who were on their way to Tunisia to turn back. Abuses and acts of aggression against the dignity of the Algerians by the Tunisian border police were recorded, particularly at the Elayoun and Oum Et Teboul posts, according to an APS dispatch.

'Precautionary Measures' Taken

LD1301234992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] An authorized Tunisian source has categorically denied the reports carried by some media to the effect that the Tunisian authorities on Sunday had closed the borders with Algeria following President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation. All there is to this is that precautionary measures were taken. These measures can easily be understood considering the circumstances.

As for the treatment of Algerian travelers at the borders, it has always been and will remain characterized by the warmth required by the relations of brotherhood and good-neighborliness existing between the two countries.

Internal Security Forces Council Meets

LD1401071692 Algiers Radic Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] It was learned from an official Tunisian source that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali yesterday presided over a meeting of the supreme council of the Tunisian internal security forces. Although the source did not link this meeting to the situation in Algeria following the resignation of President Chedli Bendjedid, it said that the participants in the meeting carried out an appraisal of the program of international cooperation among the various security forces and their counterparts in the sisterly countries, and that Algeria was in the forefront of the sisterly countries.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Receives Note From Iran's Habibi

JN1301160092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Manama, 13 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, has received a message from Hasan Habibi, Iranian first vice president. The message deals with bilateral relations and invites his highness to visit Iran. Javad Tork-Abadi, Iran's ambassador to Bahrain, conveyed the message when his highness received him in Manama today.

Areas of bilateral cooperation in the commercial and economic sectors as well as the regional and international political situation were reviewed during the meeting.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister and acting foreign minister, and Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', director general of the Prime Minister's Office, attended the meeting.

Kuwait

'Strong' Explosion at Ammunition Depot

LD1401115492 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] In Kuwait, a responsible source at the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry has said that a strong explosion occurred last night at a live ammunition depot in Amhara region near Jahra' governorate.

Armed Forces Rebuilding; Defense Plans Discussed

PM1301113692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview with Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, deputy chief of staff of the Kuwaiti Army, by Hamad al-Jasir in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jasir] Can you outline the losses inflicted on the Kuwaiti military force as a result of the Iraqi invasion?

[Al-Sabah] Our military institutions, like the other facilities in Kuwait, sustained substantial damage as a result of the occupation: 95 percent was destroyed. Some military installations will be rebuilt from scratch. There were very large losses of equipment and weapons, and even of office furniture and nonmilitary equipment, owing to the occupation forces' barbarism and sabotage and the Iraqi forces' ignorance about the facilities and installations that they seized.

We have already made long strides in the process of rebuilding and restoring our facilities and installations. From the first day of the liberation, our Armed Forces personnel started returning to their administrative bases to clear and reorganize them so that they can use them. All brigades and land units have now returned to their barracks. The naval base will be operational soon after navy personnel have prepared it for their vessels, which left the base following the occupation. The air bases are being repaired in order to receive the operational squadrons. Aircraft will start to take off and land there in the middle of the year. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jasir] With regard to your endeavor to rebuild the Armed Forces, which military fields and types of weapons interested you most?

[Al-Sabah] We now have a new theory for defense security and armament. It is based on acquiring equipment which is technologically the best; easy to maintain, understand, and operate; and offers the greatest firepower for the smallest human effort.

The quantity of weapons is not important. The important thing is their characteristics and the extent of their advantages. The Iraqi tyrant acquired huge quantities of weapons at the expense of his people's deprivation and starvation. But the stockpiles of weapons secured him no gain or victory. In the past eight months, Kuwait has not rushed to purchase weapons and make deals. We have in fact been preparing the facilities first, so that we can accommodate the advanced weapons which will arrive later. We are also making efforts to prepare our national manpower resources to receive, operate, and maintain the weapons and equipment. As I said, in armaments policy we will opt for the latest weapons that offer the greatest firepower in the field for the smallest human effort.

[Al-Jasir] The recent Gulf summit did not resolve the future of the unified Gulf army plan. Are there obstacles to the plan?

[Al-Sabah] We must not be hasty in talking about a unified army. This, because its realization will take some time and great efforts. Building is a process which needs time, money, and efforts and does not bear fruit quickly. To ensure the plan's success, there must be thorough and complete studies, so that our steps will be in the right direction. If we are agreed on the principle of providing protection for the Gulf, then formalities can be discussed deliberately and not in haste.

[Al-Jasir] What tasks are the Kuwaiti forces performing to guard the borders with Iraq?

[Al-Sabah] Our forces are not present on the borders now. The task of guarding the borders is left to the Interior Ministry's security organs. There is a buffer zone along the borders in which there is an international monitoring force. We are committed to respecting the international resolutions and regulations covering the situation on the borders.

But all movements on the Iraqi side are watched and assessed, and if an Iraqi aggression takes place, we will

confront it. I do not want to go into technical, military details, but the infiltration scenario is up to the tyrant; it is he who will determine it.

[Al-Jasir] The Damascus declaration includes the idea of joint defense among its members. But the idea has not yet been organized into practical military programs. What is Kuwait's view of a possible role for Egypt and Syria to contribute to Gulf security?

[Al-Sabah] The Damascus declaration includes a military section under which the two fraternal states will send military aid to Kuwait and the Gulf states whenever necessary and whenever there is any threat.

[Al-Jasir] Foreign reports indicate that Kuwait is thinking about setting up a defense fence along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Sabah] I have reservations about what some of these sources have said about this, especially the reference to the "Berlin Wall," which used to divide a single state, whereas in our case Kuwait and Iraq are two independent states. It is futile to rely on artificial barriers to achieve defense security. [passage omitted]

The fence we are talking about in Kuwait is a security fence designed to limit Iraqi infiltration operations into Kuwaiti territory. It is the Interior Ministry which will supervise the fence through the border guards.

That does not prevent Kuwait from placing defense obstacles along the borders to obstruct the enemy before repulsing him. It is not a fence of the kind mooted recently. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Relations Established With Vatican

LD1101174992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Vatican City, 11 Jan (KUNA)— Kuwait has announced its agreement to the opening of the first Vatican embassy in Kuwait as a sign of the strengthening of the ties of cooperation and friendship between the two friendly countries.

Dr. Tariq Razuqi, the Kuwaiti ambassador to France, said in a statement to KUNA here today that this declaration comes within the framework of the bilateral cooperation between the Vatican and Kuwait. The Kuwaiti diplomat, who is also Kuwait's ambassador to the Vatican, said that the embassy, which will be opened soon, will be the first of its kind in the Gulf region. [Passage omitted]

On the future of Kuwaiti relations with the Vatican, the Kuwaiti ambassador said that the Vatican state will carry out diplomatic and political action in friendly states in support of the Kuwaiti prisoners who are still detained in Iraqi prisons. [passage omitted]

At the end of his statement to KUNA the ambassador stressed that the views of Kuwait and the Vatican are identical with respect to international political issues. He expressed the hope that bilateral meetings will continue to improve relations between the two states so that they may extend to cover all fields and levels.

Oman

Azerbaijani Prime Minister Arrives 11 Jan

JN1101210292 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency Gasan Gasanov, prime minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, arrived this morning on a three-day visit to the sultanate. He was received upon arrival by His Excellency Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, and the Russian ambassador accredited to the sultanate.

Sultan Qabus Receives Gasanov 12 Jan

JN1201151592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Suhar, 12 Jan (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman received here today Gasan Aziz Ogly Gasanov, prime minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who is now visiting the sultanate.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY said nothing about the topics discussed in the meeting, which was attended by Qays al-Zawawi, Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

JN1301155592 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] A memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Sultanate and the Republic of Azerbaijan was signed this morning. The memorandum was signed on behalf of Oman by Qays 'Abd- al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, and on behalf of Azerbaijan by Prime Minister Gasan Aziz Ogly Gasanov.

Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi told the OMANI NEWS AGENCY that the memorandum of understanding signed today falls within the general framework of cooperation between the governments of Oman and Azerbaijan. In accordance with this memorandum, the general framework for cooperation and investment in the field of oil and gas exploration and production is defined, as well as in the field of developing and managing oil refineries in Azerbaijan. He also said that cooperation in each of the fields listed in the memorandum of understanding will be discussed separately in order to reach separate agreements on each field.

Prime Minister Gasan Aziz Ogly Gasanov of Azerbaijan left the country at noon today for Saudi Arabia following a three-day visit to the Sultanate. During this visit, he

was received by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. He was seen off by Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Chairs Cabinet Meeting

LD1301205892 Riyadh SPA in English 1944 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 13, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defence and aviation and inspector general chaired a weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers here on Monday afternoon.

After the meeting, information minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that the Council reviewed reports on the current Arab and international developments.

He said the Council was briefed on some aspects of these reports by Prince Sultan, who also analysed their reflections and indicators.

Prince Sultan also dealt with the outcome of his meetings and talks with several envoys to the Kingdom, whom he had met in line with directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Prince Sultan met over the past few days with the prime minister of Djibouti, who handed him a message from the president of Djibouti to King Fahd, and Libyan Leader Mu'Ammar al-Qadhdhafi's envoy Mustafa al-Kharrubi, who gave him a similar message for the Saudi monarch.

Prince Sultan met earlier this week with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who was accompanied by the Ministers of Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad al-'Imadi and the Minister of Finance Khalid al-Mahayini, and Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe.

Prince Sultan noted the guests' appreciation of Saudi positions on Arab and Islamic nations, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, and said they had paid tributes to the monarch's efforts to support Muslims everywhere.

Prince Sultan said they also lauded the Kingdom's comprehensive urban development in all fields and praised the level of security enjoyed in the Kingdom.

He discussed with the ministers some local issues and took the necessary measures to deal with them.

Al-Sha'ir said the council has decided to approve the following issues:

1. The renewal of the Saudi-Syrian trade and economic agreement for another year starting 26-7-1412 ah.

2. The appointment of 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Sa'ad Bin-Ibrahim al- Brahim in the 15th grade at the Interior Ministry.

3. The appointment of Ahmad Bin-'Ali al-Qahtani in the 15th grade at the Ministry of Information.

Japanese International Trade Minister Ends Visit

LD1301130892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency Kozo Watanabe, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, and his accompanying delegation, left Riyadh this afternoon. A number of officials from the Trade Ministry were at the airport to bid Watanabe farewell.

Defense Minister Meets Djibouti Prime Minister

LD1301144192 Riyadh SPA in English 1255 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 13, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, second deputy premier and minister of defence and aviation, received here on Monday Djibouti's Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou who delivered to him a message from President Hassan Gouled Aptidon to custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud.

Hamadou is accompanied by Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah and Defence Minister Ismail Ali Youssouf.

The meeting was attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, minister of state and cabinet member Muhammad al-Milhim and Djibouti's Ambassador to the Kingdom Shiruh Idriss Ahmed.

Hamadou arrived in Riyadh earlier today from Jeddah.

Diplomatic Ties With Bulgaria Expected

AU0901113292 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Doha, Jan 9 (AFP)—Bulgaria will establish diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia "very soon," Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev said in statements published here Thursday.

He told the Qatari daily AL-SHARQ that Sofia wanted to upgrade cooperation in all fields with the six-nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

"Very soon," Sofia will set up ties with Riyadh, Ganev said at the end of a Middle East tour that took him to Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

He also disclosed that Egyptian, Syrian, Jordanian and Palestinian leaders had welcomed an offer by Bulgaria to host future Middle East peace talks.

Republic of Yemen

Interior Minster on Progress of Unity State

PM1301163392 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Jan 92 p 4

[Interview with Yemeni Interior Minister Colonel Ghalib Mutahhar al-Ghamish by Rashid Khishanah in Tunis on 9 January]

[Excerpt] [Khishanah] A year and a half after unity, to what extent has Yemen been able to overcome the differences between the north and the south?

[Al-Ghamish] The masses are the basis on which Yemen's reunification and the Yemeni Republic were built. That gives the unity state a security fence, particularly in overcoming the negative aspects (or, at least, many negative aspects) and tackling other wrong phenomena. It is natural that there are negative aspects and mistakes are made, especially in the course of such a great achievement as Yemen's unity, bearing in mind the two different regimes which had existed in the two parts of Yemen.

The unity state has managed in 18 months to reshape life in Yemen to suit the new unity structure, both in unifying the laws, passports, and identity cards and in merging the various ministries and institutions.

God willing, we will overcome the remaining negative aspects through the maturity of our Yemeni people, with the help of the Arab brothers' understanding of Yemen's role.

[Khishanah] There have been attempts to infiltrate Yemeni territory from the sea. Have you found out who was behind them, and have you taken precautions to prevent a repetition of such incidents?

[Al-Ghamish] The birth of the Yemeni Republic is known to have produced great burdens for the unity state. Perhaps the most important is the extension of the land and sea border. Border infiltrations, for smuggling or other purposes, can occur in any state with such long borders. Anyone caught in such operations is referred to the courts after full investigation. Whoever is behind them must also be found out.

[Khishanah] How were the repercussions of last year's assassinations contained, and to what extent have the security and political authorities been able to root out the causes?

[Al-Ghamish] The issue of the assassinations has been exaggerated. The number of weapons in public hands facilitates acts of revenge and retaliation. This matter is ultimately subject to the judiciary. Some media have magnified events and sometimes falsified the truth, portraying many criminal cases as political issues.

[Khishanah] Some analysts have interpreted the friction between the police and some army officers as something reflecting tension between the security and military establishments.. How is the state tackling that phenomenon?

[Al-Ghamish] It is regrettable that the description "analysts" has been given to those who have interpreted a clash between one army officer and a traffic policeman as a clash between the military and security establishments. That analysis lacks objectivity, because it is not based on accurate information. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Receives DFLP's Hawatimah

JN1301154192 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] At noon today, brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas received brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], who is now visiting our country. They discussed the struggle relations between the Yemeni and the Palestinian revolutions and Palestinian, Arab, and international developments. The meeting was attended by brother Jawdat Yusuf, DFLP representative in Sanaa.

President Receives Libyan Envoy, al-Qadhdhafi Note

JN1301131592 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, in the presence of brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council, today received brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture Reform and Land Reclamation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. The message deals with the current threats to Libya, issues related to fraternal relations between the two countries, and developments and issues of interest to our Arab nation.

Brother Sadiq Amin Abu-Ras, minister of agriculture and water resources, and brother Milad al-Faqih, secretary of the Libyan brotherhood office in Sanaa, attended the meeting.

INA Reports Minutes of 'Aziz-Baker Meeting

Part I

CM1101102592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 9, INA—The English language newspaper "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" and other Iraqi newspapers today published part of the minutes of the meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and James Baker on 9 January in Geneva.

On 9 January 1991, Iraq's then foreign minister and present Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State Mr. James Baker held a crucial meeting in Geneva which was hoped to prevent the U.S. aggression against Iraq. A lot of lies are being aired by the United States and its allies about what happened in this meeting. To unveil the whole truth, we are going to publish, in parts, the unofficial translated text of the minutes of that meeting, which shows that the U.S. envoy came not to talk but to convey threats. Following is the first part of the agenda.

First Session: Baker: This is a very important meeting which we need as representatives of two sovereign states. The purpose of this meeting is by no means to exert pressure on each other, but it must be no surprise to you that I am not here to renegotiate the resolutions of the world community which were passed by the Security Council. I am here to contact you, and this does not include talking only but also listening. I am therefore not interested in just talking but also in listening. I hope you are here also in a spirit of listening in addition to talking, and I'll start in the manner you prefer. Either you start if you like, or I will. But before you start, I would like to give to you a letter from President Bush to President Saddam Husayn, and here is a copy of the letter for you.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz: Thank you, your excellency. I am really interested in making this meeting a fruitful one, and I think we can achieve this by listening to each other. I know your attitude and I know we have big differences, but as I said, I am ready to listen to you and to appreciate your readiness to listen to what I am going to say. As for the letter you have given me, allow me to read it first.

Baker: Please do, this is why I've presented it to you. A copy of the Arabic translation will be given to your ambassador in Washington.

'Aziz: Your Excellency, you've said the aim of this meeting is not to exert pressure on each other. I've read President George Bush's letter to my president. It is full of threats and it has a language which is not normally used in dialogue between heads of states; therefore I am sorry I cannot receive it. You can publish this letter in the media and we will respond to it through our own. I hope this will not disrupt our meeting, because we really want to talk. We have not talked since the beginning of the crisis. As is known, our two peoples are heading for a confrontation and it would be useful, before getting engaged in one, to explore the possibilities of establishing some understanding between our two countries. I, therefore, cannot accept the language in the letter of President Bush, even though he said he did not mean threatening but communicating. I prefer that we inform each other of our attitudes in a civilized manner that demonstrates mutual respect, and if God helps us reach understanding, that would be all right. If we fail, and this is not my wish, then each of us will know His way. As regards work, I would like to listen to Secretary of State Baker first.

Baker: First of all, I would like to make it clear that I do not see in this letter any uncivilized language. Second, it is very important that we understand each other. The aim of this letter is to clarify what we have been saying for several months. The letter shows that the world community is very serious about imposing the 12 resolutions issued by the United Nations. I cannot force you to receive this letter and I will not try. As for publishing the letter in the future, we will consider it, and we may or may not do so. But the only person who knows the content of the letter is you and this is obviously a big responsibility for one person to shoulder—but if you want to, so be it.

To start, this was our viewpoint on 2 August, when you invaded Kuwait. This act has been condemned by 12 Security Council resolutions. These resolutions not only denounce the act, but also insist on returning things to normal.

We cannot discuss the provisions of Security Council resolutions and we cannot negotiate them again. You know more than anybody else this truth, especially your position toward Resolution 598 on your conflict with Iran. Security Council resolutions are not negotiable. The only question, therefore, is: Are you going to leave Kuwait peacefully or are you going to be forced to do so? It is obvious that if there is a peaceful settlement of the crisis and you withdraw, those who are living in Iraq now will have a say in the future of Iraq. But if the withdrawal happens as a result of the use of force, others will decide that future.

We feel duty-bound to explain the consequences of not responding to the resolutions, to you, to your president, and to the peoples of the world that supported the UN resolutions in the clearest terms. You may view our efforts to make contacts as some kind of threat, but I hope you will not view it this way. I hope you will understand that we have the responsibility to tell you and others the facts as we see them regarding the use of force. This is one of the reasons that prompted President Bush to ask me to meet you and to write this letter, because if the clash takes place—and let us hope not—but if it takes place, it must not be the result of the lack of understanding of intentions or facts by the parties concerned.

Let me tell you what the President has told me: We will close our embassy in Baghdad on 12 January and we

want to take the remaining five diplomats out of Baghdad. We are not asking you to recall all your diplomats from Washington. If you want to recall two or three, it is up to you. But I hope that there is still an opportunity for a peaceful settlement to this problem, and this is what Resolution 678 calls for: namely a temporary pause for peace. These talks for peace do not change Security Council resolutions. We say that these resolutions call for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, and demand the restoration of the sovereignty of Kuwait and its legitimate government. We do not have any powers here to discuss or talk about what has been adopted by the international community through the United Nations. In our view, the international community has settled these issues.

The information I am going to give you and your colleagues is aimed at making you understand our viewpoint regarding the extent of your isolation in this conflict, and letting you know that we sincerely believe that the consequences would be destructive for Iraq if military force is used. Let me tell you again that the meaning is not threat but communication. You may choose to reject it or not believe in it, but we believe we have a responsibility. We possess absolute technological superiority, absolute superiority in terms of the overall weight of the forces deployed in the region, including the international forces. We believe that if a conflict erupts, your forces will face forces that enjoy smashing destructive powers. Again I would like to say that these powers will destroy your ability to command your forces.

I would like to say that if a conflict takes place—and I do not want this to happen, and I know you do not want it either—we will give your troops in Kuwait the opportunity to save themselves. It is not part of our plans to destroy these forces immediately and swiftly, and it is not like your war with Iran. But those who choose not to save themselves will be unable to defend themselves in the face of the air, sea, and land forces that will destroy them.

It is also my duty to tell you that, from our point of view, there will be no halt. In case of a conflict, there will be no UN truce creating a breathing space or negotiations. You must have heard, over the past months, that if the conflict erupts it will be huge and will not be another Vietnam. We will not put our armies in a position in which it cannot fulfill its work. If the war starts, it would be fought for a quick and decisive end. There is another point related to what I would describe as the dark side of the issue: Before we cross to the other side—that is, if the conflict starts, God forbid, and chemical or biological weapons are used against our forces—the American people would demand revenge, and we have the means to implement this. This is not a threat, but a pledge that if there is any use of such weapons, our objective would not be only the liberation of Kuwait, but also the toppling of the present regime. Any person who is responsible for the use of these weapons would be held accountable in the future.

Just like the U.S President showed in his speech, we will not permit terrorism to be directed against Americans or against their partners in the coalition, and also we will not allow any attempt to destroy Kuwaiti oilfields.

Finally, in our view and in the view of our allies as well, the war will destroy everthing you have struggled to build in Iraq. Because of your unwillingness to end your aggression against Kuwait, Iraq will be transformed into a very weak and backward state. We hope there could be another way and we hope we will not be left with this as the only way to implement the Security Council resolutions. I am glad we have had the opportunity to hold this meeting, because we are annoyed at the idea that no detailed calculations were made by the Iraqi side. I believe that your president made a miscalculation regarding the international community's will when he invaded Kuwait, and we hope you will make no other miscalculations regarding the will of the United States. There were oppressive rulers in the past who used to believe that American democracy is not prepared to fight, and they paid dearly for that misjudgment. I stress that, misjudgment. I stress that such errors should not be repeated.

Do not misinterpret the numerous events which you hear about and which come from our democratic society.

You know our system encourages this, but thanks to this open and democratic dialogue, we feel that this system is the strongest in the world and that the Americans will unite for war if they are left with no other option.

Let me shift from here to the bright side.

'Aziz argued that Baker was following the principle of the carrot and the stick.

Baker: You are very observant. First we have learned that you are worried about the respective outcomes if you do or do not withdraw. I would like to reiterate the assurances Bush made, and I repeat them: You will not be attacked if you respond positively to Security Council resolutions. We will not attack your country or forces if there is a full response to the resolution.

Second, the big U.S. presence in the Gulf now is because of what we considered in August as a big and serious threat, and as a result of the discrepancy between your military power in the region and that which exists in the Arabian Peninsula.

We do not have any intentions of keeping huge military forces, particularly those specially equipped with offensive capabilities against Iraq, immediately after the Iraqi withdrawal and absence of the threat.

Third, we support the idea of settling differences between Iraq an Kuwait peacefully as provided for by Resolution 660.

Therefore, let me say I am glad we have had the opportunity to meet and I am glad your president has decided to send you to Geneva.

I have already said this is the best opportunity for peace, and I really believe in this and hope we will find a way to settle this issue peacefully, politically and diplomatically.

'Aziz: Your Excellency, you have said all this started in August.

We have a different point of view, and I am glad to have the opportunity to explain to you and your colleagues our viewpoint. But before dealing with this side, I would like to make a comment on the other side you mentioned in your talk.

For many months we have been hearing from you personally, from President Bush and other U.S. officials, that Iraq does not know what is surrounding it, and that it is unaware of the hazards that are likely to ensue from a military confrontation. We would have liked to have met earlier to eliminate the misunderstanding on this particular issue and other issues.

Your Excellency, we have been leading our country for 22 years. The average age of members of the Iraqi leadership is 50; I myself am 55, my president is 54, and I think you agree with me that this age is the age of maturity. As wise men say, wisdom starts after 40.

We have long experience in running our country and in dealing with international issues. I must admit that our experience with the United States is not much and your experience in dealing with us is little. Now we are heading for a confrontation. I met you in October 1989 for less than an hour, and Mr. Kelly visited us last February. I know President Bush through a brief meeting in 1984.

The only U.S. official who met with my president and who is now still in the administration is Mr. Kelly. We conclude from this that we do not know each other well. But many others know us, including your allies. I do not mean your allies in the region who know us, but I mean your allies in the West such as the French, the Germans, and the Italians. We fully understand what is going on around us. Since 2 August we have been expecting U.S. military action against Iraq. We know what the United States is. It is true, as I have said, that our experience with you at the level of our two leaderships is slight; however, we do know the basic facts in the world. One of these facts is that the United States is a superpower; recently, it has become the sole superpower. Therefore, when we behave as we have done, you should not have any doubt that this behavior is the result of ignorance of these facts. You are a developed country and you possess great weapons, many of which you have moved to our region. I emphasize to you that we know exactly what you have; we know the efficiency and the devastating power of every U.S. weapon in the region. We are an active government that works a great deal, reads, analyzes, and follows up. We have proven this in many cases, in which some Americans have dealt with us. I think that they also have sensed that we do not lie or cheat. We are direct people who have our views, views which may not be acceptable to others but which stem from sincerity. We are always open for an exchange of views with others. I want to say to you, Mr. Secretary, that we follow up the discussions taking place in the United States. This is part of our daily work. We watch the discussions on U.S. television. Some of us, like me, have a modest understanding of English and know what is going on in the Congress and what is written in the press. We have no illusions, however, about your intentions. We know that in your country the head of state has great powers and that he makes his decisions when he wants. We understand democracies and how they operate.

It is true that our political system is different from yours. As I have already told you, however, we have been leading our country for the past 22 years. We have dealt with many countries and have visited them. We know how democracy works in your country, as well as in France, Britain, and Germany. The issue has nothing to do with a lack of information. Moreover, it has nothing to do with delusions regarding your capabilities. Likewise, it has nothing to do with a miscalculation, or an erroneous calculation of your intentions and ability to make decisions. As I have told you, since the onset of events we have expected military action from you against us. Despite all of this, we espoused the positions that we have chosen. We have constantly called for meetings and talks. My president expressed this desire over American television. You have said, however, that there can be no meetings or negotiations unless Iraq does so and so. We interpreted this as a determination on your part to forge ahead with the military option, because we understand the reason for your refusal to meet us. [sentence as received] Now, you and I meet together; you tell me what you want to say, and I tell you what I want to say. Both of us are mature men. Neither of us will deceive the other. I cannot convince you of my viewpoint unless you find in it something convincing. The same goes for me. So, the talk is not harmful. Certainly, it is useful in various ways. With regard to the other aspect, we are aware of the costs of war. We were engaged in war with Iran. It is true that Iran is not as powerful as the United States. Some chapters of the war with Iran, however, were very, very difficult and hard. You were a member of the former administration. You must have followed the situation during the years of war between us and Iran. A few Americans thought that we could emerge in good shape from the war.

Baker said: You were not about to emerge in good shape.

The foreign minister said: This is not an accurate assessment. We emerged victorious from the war. We ended the war with a victorious act. We accomplished a significant achievement. We protected our country from a regime which was then expansionist and aggressive. Yes, we sustained huge costs. The most exorbitant costs, which have continued to plague us after the war, lie in the economic sphere. Our economy suffered from lower revenues. Hence, we do not have any delusions regarding war costs. My youngest son is 11 years old. The experiences of his lifetime are exclusively confined to war, to expecting Iranian air raids and missiles. So, war is not something alien to us. It is viewed as something hateful. In the Islamic religion there is a Koranic verse depicting

war as something detestable. This verse says: "Fighting is prescribed upon you, and ye dislike it." Hence, we are aware of all these facts. We are aware of your might, as well as of your determination. We know that war is devastating. In spite of this, we have have espoused the positions we have chosen to espouse recently. So, you must be asking yourselves the following questions: Don't these people understand? Are they isolated, as you say?

Yes, over the past five months we have not made contacts with many countries, or they have refrained from doing so. We know this well. We know your and my colleagues, European Foreign Ministers Dumas, Andreotti, and others. We have talked with them a great deal and we have dined with them. Hence, we were not isolated before 2 August. Now, even with the absence of contacts, we have enough information about the world. Therefore, there must have been essential reasons. Before I speak about these reasons, I would like to comment on some of the remarks to which you have referred.

You said that if Iraq does not do so and so, then the current leadership will not be able to decide the future of Iraq, that there will be others. I think that this is a miscalculation by you. Leadership in our country is not something easy. It is true that our system is not like yours. However, those who reach the leadership in Iraq, and who stay for a long period as we have, should have very strong reasons for remaining for such a period of time. I tell you without boasting, and despite the insult contained in your comments about this subject, I tell you that the current leadership will continue to rule Iraq now and in the future, and that those who will disappear from the political theater are not the Iraqi leadership but some of your allies in the region. This is the way we see things. Our people stand by our side and are convinced of our position. You describe our regime as authoritarian; this is a Western description.

Baker said: I am a Westerner.

The foreign minister said: Yes, I understand, but in our country we have a different history. I believe you know that Iraq as a people is 6,000 years old, during which states, kingdoms, and empires were set up and leaders existed and contributions were made to human civilization. We are the grandsons of these people. It is true that we live in this age and that we are affected by it. But we have our own values in administering the country's affairs, and these values are what make our people stand beside us. These people not only support us, they love us. This is the truth. If anyone gives you different information, then he is wrong and he would be deceiving you.

How will the confrontation between us and you end? You are a big power which possesses strong weapons. You have your estimates about the effectiveness of these weapons. You have your plans and you are convinced that if you start the war against Iraq you will win and you will smash us. We have a different conviction. I sincerely and without pretension tell you that the 19 million Iraqis, including the Iraqi leadership, are convinced that if war with you erupts, we will win. I say this without illusion; this is our conviction.

Part II

JN1101112092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Part two of report on minutes of meeting between Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held in Geneva in January 1991]

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—Yesterday, Thursday [9 January], INA transmitted a part of the minutes of the 9 January 1991 meeting between Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his U.S. counterpart, James Baker.

The following is another part of the text of these minutes:

Baker said: I said what I said without any pretentions or vanity. Therefore, I hope that we will talk this way also. In the same way, I am also certain of what I have said.

The foreign minister said: I appreciate the tone of the talks. Everyone has his reasons and convictions. This does not mean that I do not want to reach an understanding with you, because, as civilized people, it is better if we reach an understanding. It is better to live in this world in peace based on understanding, to make a better future for our two peoples and for humanity, and to avoid war. Therefore, what I want to say is that war does not frighten Iraq. Iraq does not want war. You said this and you are right. I am also certain that you do not want war from the humanitarian viewpoint. But you have told me that if we do not do this or that, then we would be waging war.

Baker said: What I said was that there are 12 UN resolutions which we cannot change or about which we cannot negotiate. These resolutions must be implemented. For the past five months, Iraq has not shown any sign that it would respond to these resolutions willingly and without the use of any force. Therefore, I say that we are quickly approaching the time by which we want to see these resolutions implemented.

The foreign minister said: I have understood exactly what the secretary said but, in the final analysis, you said—and I do not doubt what you say—that you might resort to a decision of war. This means that you do not fear such a possibility. I also say that I do not want war. But if war breaks out, we will not fear it.

Therefore, the issue of war is not a question of fear. I was honest when I said that we did not miscalculate with regard to what has been said in the United States and the press. I hope that there will be no miscalculation regarding our ability to withstand the war. The question is: Why? We must have important reasons. We have been in power for 22 years. We waged an eight-year war with Iran and the costs were great. How can we bear the burden of the dangers of a new war if we have no important reasons? We are also human. We love life,

provided that it is a decent life. We have wives and children, and some of us have grandchildren. We know what war means—killing, destruction, and great economic consequences. Therefore, we must have important reasons that go back to the time both before and after 2 August.

I visited you in Washington in October 1989 and told you that we wanted good relations with the United States, relations based on mutual respect and cooperation. I sincerely tell you that if we put aside our differences concerning the Arab-Israeli struggle, Iraq does not regard itself as an enemy of the United States, nor does it play a role that threatens U.S. interests. Iraq has not helped to kill even a single U.S. citizen so far. Iraq has not threatened any U.S. interests. Now we find ourselves face to face in preparation to fight one another. We might kill many of you and you might kill many of us. This was not our desire.

We have come out of the war with a huge military power. How was this power established? In 1979 or 1980 we did not possess such power. This power was established during the war for the defense of our country. How could we confront the Iranians? In January 1987, the Iranians launched an offensive against al-Basrah with 400,000 people, 400,000 people who were determined to die. We fought 24 hours a day. We killed thousands and thousands of them every day as one wave after another came to us. You know the situation; you were watching it. Therefore, we should have possessed the power enabling us to confront this danger. This danger was directed not only against us, but against those whom you have come to protect. Had we not succeeded, you would have sent your forces to confront Iran and not Iraq. I think you agree with these facts.

Our power, therefore, was to maintain the balance and to protect the region's security, stability, and resources, including your interests. We did not serve your interests; we have not offered ourselves as servants to your interests. The results, however, were clear, something which indicates the intermingling of interests in the world. But after the war, what have we been faced with? With skepticism, accusations, pressure, and slanders. If you refer to the minutes of my meeting with you in October 1989, you will find that I drew your attention to the fact that doubt was being cast about our capability. When Mr. Kelly came to Baghdad, I spoke with him for a long time about these issues. The same discussion took place during his meeting with my president.

What were the conditions before 2 August? For us, in 1990, there was a very broad media campaign against Iraq; there was defamation of the Iraqi leadership and instigation against it for an economic embargo. In practice, you had suspended the agreement reached with us on grains and agriculture, an issue that I discussed with you at your office in October. This took place before our forces entered Kuwait. You adopted economic and technological embargo measures against Iraq before 2 August.

Your newspapers were describing my president as the most dangerous man in the world. In the 4 June issue of the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, there was a picture of the Iraqi president with a title: The most dangerous man in the world. NEWSWEEK said that Saddam Husayn was the people's No. 1 enemy. I told you that, so far, we have not participated in the killing of a single American, and we have not threatened any U.S. interest in any part of the world. So how does my president become the No. 1 enemy in the United States? We know the reason. In March 1990, we were expecting an Israeli attack on Iraq. The Israelis were threatening to attack our scientific, military, and industrial installations. We took precautions. We said that it would be wise to warn the Israelis, given that they might imagine that they can strike us without a reply from our side. We said: Let us warn them and let us be clear and firm. On 2 April 1990, my president said that if Israel attacked us, we would respond and burn half of Israel. He meant that if Israel attacked us with a nuclear weapon.

Mrs. Tutwiler made an immediate statement in which she said that this talk is awful, and that President Bush had asked my president to withdraw his threat. We said (if) Israel attacked us, but the (if) was omitted from the official U.S. position. We have not met at the official level, but we were visited by important personalities, such as Senator Dole, and others whom I took to Mosul to meet with my president. The president was clear. He said that if Israel attacked us with a nuclear weapon, we have a binary chemical weapon that we would use against Israel in self-defense. If Israel attacked us with conventional weapons, then we would reply with conventional weapons.

Baker said: This was not made clear, not at all. Regarding the original statement, the threat contained therein was not contingent upon an Israeli nuclear attack. The U.S. public perceived the statement as a clear threat from your president to attack Israel. I am not debating. I simply say, however, that there was a miscalculation. You must understand that if someone already has used chemical weapons, not only against Iran but also against the Kurds, and threatens to use them against a neighboring country, then this becomes a highly significant issue, as well as a worrisome one. What you say is that the statement was only a signal. However, I am not debating this with you here.

The foreign minister said: You might have understood the issue this way. But Senator Dole, upon his return from Baghdad, must have informed you of this, or must have informed President Bush of the content of his meeting with the president. I read his statements upon his return from Baghdad. We did not intend to be the first to use any weapon. We were determined to reply with these weapons, however, if we were to become the target of an aggression. At the time, we were expecting Israel to launch a war against us, and against Jordan as well. The Jordanians must have communicated their concern in this regard to you.

Ambassador Ross said: We have not heard anything from the Jordanians in this regard. However, we did hear Egypt expressing the belief that there might have been a miscalculation involving both Israel and Iraq.

The foreign minister said: King Husayn sent a message to Bush, worded in very clear terms. In this message, King Husayn wondered: How do you expect Iraq not to be cautious with the United States at a time when the latter is jeopardizing the life of Iraq's president? Do you remember that I raised this issue in general terms in October 1989?

Baker said: Yes, I remember this.

The foreign minister said: King Husayn's message was clear. So the picture in 1990 was clear. It consisted of the following: An Israeli threat to Iraq, the possible eruption of a war between us and Israel, an Israeli threat to Jordan's security, and an Israeli threat to the Palestinians, thanks to the massive Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. This was the issue discussed at the Baghdad summit. As for the Baghdad summit resolutions, they all tackled the Israeli threats to Iraq, Jordan, and the Palestinians, as well as the U.S. and Western boycott of Iraq. In the meantime, efforts to destabilize the Iraqi economy began.

Mr. Secretary, you know that Iraq is a country of immense resources of various kinds, not only oil. Besides, we have an active economy. We work day and night producing. There should be no reason for Iraq to reach the verge of economic collapse. The conduct of the former Kuwaiti rulers, however, made Iraq reach the verge of such a collapse.

In December 1989 and January 1990, we sold oil for $21 per barrel. In February, the Kuwaiti rulers began to flood the oil market, thus causing oil prices to fall to $11 per barrel or less. The loss of $1 per barrel means an annual loss of $1 billion for Iraq. This means that the result would be the destruction of the Iraqi economy. This is tantamount to war against Iraq. At the Baghdad summit, President Saddam Husayn spoke with all of the Arab leaders, including King Fahd, Jabir, and Zayid. He said: The flooding of the oil market by some countries is tantamount to war against Iraq. He who does not have the intention of waging war on Iraq must halt this policy. These words are documented in video and audio recordings. Nevertheless, you have made scores of statements saying that what Iraq did on 2 August was unprovoked. This is the term that you used. These words were the first warning voiced by President Saddam Husayn. Before that, there were diplomatic contacts between us and them in the wake of the Baghdad summit. His excellency the president sent the deputy prime minister to Fahd, Jabir, and Zayid, urging them to hold a summit in Saudi Arabia to discuss the issue, given the fact that Iraq had reached the verge of economic collapse thanks to the conduct of the Kuwaiti and United Arab Emirates governments. They refused to hold a summit. Instead, they held a meeting of oil ministers and decided to return to the old production ceilings. The Kuwaiti oil minister, however, made a statement immediately at the end of the meeting, saying that Kuwait will return to the pursuit of its old oil policy after two months. This means continued war against Iraq.

In brief, what I would like to tell you is that our region has been experiencing the threat of war for the past 40 years. It has seen many wars. Moreover, it has suffered immense pain due to instability and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Iraq was threatened by Israel. In 1981, Israel attacked Iraq. If Israel were to attack Jordan, this would pose a threat to Iraq. Meanwhile, the Gulf regimes, which have unreasonable wealth, have not contented themselves with enjoying these riches of theirs. Indeed, they sought to destroy Iraq. When a people and their country are placed in a threatening situation for many years, when that country is placed in a situation where the threat of war is now imminent, not to mention an economic boycott and economic destruction, what do you expect that country to do? It has to act; and we acted. We say with complete conviction that what took place on 2 August was an act of self-defense. We sought to defend our country, and we dealt a strike against those who were conspiring against us. I know that you have a different attitude in this regard.

On 6 August, the president came to the Foreign Ministry and asked me to summon U.S. Charge d'Affaires Joe Wilson. In a lengthy meeting, the president told him the following: I would like to relay these words as a message to President Bush. I do not find your position regarding what happened on 2 August strange. You are a superpower; you have international responsibilities. Hence, it is only natural that you view what happened differently. Our hope, however, is that you will understand our position.

I am not urging you to conduct negotiations on the Security Council resolutions. This is not the basic issue. The basic issue is for us to work together, along with others in the region and the world at large, to achieve a comprehensive, durable, and just peace in the entire region so that all its peoples can live in security, peace, and stability. Right now you are interested in the situation in the Gulf and view it as your top priority. If this situation is not resolved in accordance with the Security Council resolutions, war will erupt. As for us, we have other interests. We are interested in the Palestine question. We truly believe that the failure to resolve this issue will pose threats to Iraq's security. What you are saying is the following: I reject linkage. We have heard this. I would like to tell you in all sincerity, however, that effecting a linkage in this regard would be a realistic move. It is a vital issue in this region. If we are to realize security, stability, and peace, we have to deal with all of these issues. You are asking me to implement certain Security Council resolutions. But there are other Security Council resolutions which have remained unimplemented. No armies have been sent to enforce these resolutions. Similarly, no boycott resolutions have been passed to enforce these resolutions. We are pained and

infuriated by the double standards used with regard to the region's issues. We demand the implementation of uniform standards.

I would like to tell you in all sincerity and seriousness that we would have no problem implementing international legitimacy and the rules of justice and fairness if these principles were to be honored with regard to all regional conflicts. Such a thing would promote our interests and realize our aspirations. We do not have a problem with this. However, we do not want to see these principles implemented with regard exclusively to a single issue. If these principles were to be honored exclusively for a single issue, then this would mean that double standards were at work. Consequently, this would perpetuate the threat to our security and lives as a people and a nation. This is our feeling. If you are willing to work to achieve peace, justice, stability, and security in the whole region, then you would find us at the forefront of those willing to cooperate with you in this regard.

Baker said: I told you that I have come to communicate. This means to talk and to listen. There are issues on which we do not agree with you, and I will try to explain. Let me go to your final point about the security of the entire region and the other problems in the region. I tell you frankly that you did not invade Kuwait to help the Palestinians. If that was so, then you have caused completely adverse results. From our point of view, your occupation of Kuwait is a great obstacle to peace in the region and is not an incentive for a solution.

You can depict your unprovoked aggression against a small state as a defensive step, but most people, frankly, believe that this argument is sarcastic. I also tell you that if you want to help the Palestinians, you have to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally. There are no double standards concerning the Security Council resolutions and the way in which we deal with them. As you know, the Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict provide a basis for the negotiations and do not require immediate and full withdrawal as the resolutions concerning Kuwait do.

The resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict have come about as a result of a war waged against Israel, and there are fast differences between them and the resolutions you spoke about. I think you know that I am very interested in a peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and that I spent 14 out of 24 months in office trying to reach a peaceful solution to this question. I think that we have come very close to this point, and I believe that your Palestinian friends will say this to you. But this was a practical way to give hope to the Palestinians, to make progress, and to give a chance for the Palestinians to improve their conditions and their aspirations.

I remind you that when we met in October 1989 I requested your help to get moderate Palestinians to participate. You strongly rejected this and said that it would be inappropriate to give advice to the Palestinians. Now suddenly, after your defensive measure in Kuwait, which is no more than your invasion of Kuwait, you want to put the Palestine question at the forefront of issues. With the same frankness I tell you that you have not invaded Kuwait with the aim of advancing the Palestine question. What I want to clarify is that we have worked hard and that our policy now and in the past is to continue to promote peace between the Arabs and Israel after this crisis is resolved. You are aware of President Bush's UN statement when he spoke about the possible chances for real progress in the Arab-Israeli peace process after resolving what the Arab community regards as an aggression and after your withdrawal from Kuwait. Then the possibilities for real progress in this peace process will improve. The reason for this is that it will be clear that violence and aggression do not succeed and that both the Arabs and the Israelis will be free to reconcile without feeling threatened. Those who are committed to reconciliation instead of conflict in the region will win; therefore, we insist on avoiding any linkage.

Let me refer to what the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT and NEWSWEEK have said. You know the United States and you know that we have a free press. Individuals have the right to write and publish what they want. But frankly, after the invasion of Kuwait, many in the world will say that what these two publications have said and the description they gave your president were right. The other Arab leaders in the alliance with the international community believe that your president has not told them the truth. It is difficult for us to accept the argument that there is a defensive feature to the brutal subjugation of a weak neighboring state. It is a fact that Iraq was facing economic difficulties. You have been spending your vast wealth to obtain huge military power, and the embargo you mentioned came only after the threat to use chemical weapons against Israel. It came only after we became worried about the big efforts—as we are now worried about your government's efforts—to obtain a nuclear capability.

Part III

JN1101153492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0727 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—For the third consecutive day, INA transmits the text of the minutes of the meeting held between Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Geneva on 9 January last year. The following is today's installment.

Baker: You have said that it is not your country's desire to be on the verge of war with the United States. Similarly, we do not want to be on the verge of war with your country. This is not an issue that exclusively concerns us. It is not only the issue of the United States against Iraq. There are 28 countries with troops deployed in the Gulf. You have said that Iraqi military might was used against Iran to promote regional security and stability. But you have used this might against Kuwait. Thus, you have not contributed to regional stability. You are complaining that your conduct was received with skepticism in the summer of 1990.

Your subsequent act against Kuwait, however, justified this skepticism. Would you like to hear an answer to this right now, or would you like to adjourn this session and resume it after lunch?

The foreign minister said: I would like to resume our meeting in the afternoon.

Baker said: I started this meeting by saying that this is an important meeting and that it is the last chance for peace. There might not be another chance. You have said that you are interested in a peaceful solution. I cannot think of another way or of another time to achieve this other than right now. Therefore, I will be at your disposal during the second session.

The foreign minister said: I have some comments on the statements that I heard from the secretary.

From the outset, I would like to explain some facts. First, regarding the way we handled the Palestine question during my meeting with you in October 1989, I would like to say the following: If my memory does not deceive me, I remember that you told me that you wanted my assistance regarding the 10-point plan. Then, I told you: We followed up on the issue. The Palestinians and Egyptians were informed of our position. Generally speaking, we support efforts that could lead to peace.

With respect to your reference to Palestinian moderates, if you are referring to the legitimate Palestinian leadership led by Mr. 'Arafat, we have for a very long time been extending our full support to them. We have never stood in the way of their efforts to achieve peace, not at all. On the contrary, we have aided them. That is why you now see them firmly supporting us. This shows that our relationship with them is sound and correct. To the best of our knowledge regarding their intentions, they are actually seeking true peace. They have expressed this desire on numerous occasions. Now, I would like to tackle other issues.

The economic measures taken by the United States against Iraq started before April 1990, indeed a long time before that.

Baker said that these measures concern armaments.

The minister said: The U.S. economic measures were taken before April 1990; that is, before my president's speech. In particular, I am referring to the measures taken regarding agricultural produce. The suspension measures were adopted in January 1990. Afterward, technical delegations visited Baghdad.

Baker said: But we talked about this during your visit. The reason for the suspension was the criminal investigation that revealed that some Iraqi officials were involved in this case. There were no political reasons for this.

The foreign minister said: I responded favorably to your requests to investigate the cases that you said involved alleged erroneous conduct. We received a U.S. delegation in Baghdad that discussed this issue. Nothing transpired to corroborate your claims.

With respect to boycott measures in the technological and armament fields, they were in force before and after April 1990.

Baker said: Regarding this, we have no apologies to make.

The foreign minister said: This is your position. However, I explained that you have taken economic and technological boycott measures. You were launching an intensely strong political and media campaign against us. As for your Israeli allies, they were threatening to deal us a military blow. All this was happening prior to 2 August.

With regard to our position vis-a-vis the Palestine question, you brand it insincere. For decades, we as a people—I am not talking about governments—have been committed to the Palestine question.

Baker said: I have not said that you are not truly committed on the Palestine question. What I have said is that this was not the reason you invaded Kuwait.

The foreign minister said: Our commitment to the Palestine question is genuine. The Palestine question is linked to Iraq as well as to its security. That is why Iraq contributed to all armed conflicts between the Arabs and Israel. As for the Israelis, they pose a threat to Iraq and also to the rest of the region's states. In 1981, they staged a flagrant and blatant aggression against us. If we had the capability, we would have reacted to this aggression, and an armed conflict would have ensued.

I have explained to you the linkage between the events that took place in August and the Palestine question. We were convinced there was an alliance between the United States, Israel, and the former rulers of Kuwait to destroy Iraq. We struck at one party of this alliance, whom we were able to hit directly—hence the linkage, and our description of our act as defensive. We are convinced of this.

Now there is a confrontation. You, together with some of your allies, are in this confrontation. Israel is also in it. If a military confrontation takes place, which parties will take part in this confrontation? These parties are known. Therefore, if we want to make peace, these parties should take part in making peace. Here comes the role of the Palestine question.

Yes, I am saying to you with sincerity and reality that the events that took place in August and afterward are 100 percent linked to the Palestine question. This is how we see things. And I will give you examples of what I am saying.

You certainly receive reports that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories support Iraq; they carry pictures of Presidents Saddam Husayn and 'Arafat. Why? They are the people who, from a financial point of view, were harmed most as a result of the events that took place on 2 August. Despite this, they support Iraq. The Palestinian leadership stands on the side of Iraq. I

believe they can talk about their cause better than I or you. When the Palestinians say they believe these events are a golden opportunity to attain their rights, they do not say this in a vacuum. There must be significant reasons to make them do so.

Regarding Iraq's military power and the threat it constitutes and what you have mentioned to the effect that what was said by the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT proved to be true months later: Following the president's statement, we announced very clearly on 2 April that Iraq was ready to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction from the region, from the entire region. But it is no secret that Israel possesses nuclear weapons.

Talk continued on Iraq's chemical weapons and that these weapons constituted a danger. We said: Yes, we possess weapons and so does the other side. We have to work to eliminate them all. We also expressed our readiness for that.

In the minutes of the meeting between President Saddam Husayn and Senator Dole, this issue was raised very clearly. Your ambassador in Baghdad attended that meeting. During the Baghdad summit in May, we stressed that position. It is still the same.

Now, we are ready to discuss a framework for a comprehensive settlement of the situations in the region. We are ready to eliminate all weapons of destruction in the region—nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. Regarding the concerns, suspicions, and allegations about Iraq's nuclear potential, our country is a signatory to the Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty and our very modest installations are being subjected to continued inspection. But your ally, Israel, whose possession of nuclear weapons you do not raise any uproar over, is not a signatory to that treaty and refuses to sign it or to allow visits to or inspection of its installations.

So when we talk about double standards, we have a strong, tangible basis for that. It seems to us that the U.S. position is that Israel can possess whatever weapons it wishes while the Arabs are prohibited from possessing any weapons even to protect themselves. This is our position on weapons of mass destruction. It is a clear, responsible, and fair position. If the people who threaten us possess weapons, then we have the right to possess weapons. But if there are guaranteed arrangements on reciprocal bases to remove such weapons, we will be ready.

You have just received this pledge from me without any obscurity, but you cannot receive such a pledge from Israel's foreign minister or prime minister.

Baker said: Thank you for this presentation. However, there are basic discrepancies between this presentation and logic. This stems from the fact that you have actually used these destructive weapons.

The foreign minister said: I will address this subject. There was a bloody conflict between us and Iran. Our country's entity, fate, and the life of its people were threatened. We had to take measures to protect our people. Once, I talked about this issue with our colleague German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. I told him that in Iran, when they arrest girls from the opposition and sentence them to death, they rape those virgin girls because they believe if they execute them while they are still virgins, they will go to paradise. To stop these girls from going to paradise, they rape them before executing them. I told him that I have two daughters and I would not allow these people to do to my daughters what they do to Iranian girls, and therefore, I have the right to use any weapon to defend my country and my people.

Concerning your statement that chemical weapons were used against the Kurds, there is the Halabjah incident. THE WASHINGTON POST published a report citing Pentagon sources and a study carried out by a U.S. institution stating that the Iranians were the first to use chemical weapons in Halabjah. The claims that these weapons were used after the cease-fire were not substantiated. You and others accused us, but you failed to produce any evidence. You can see for yourselves, if you have any doubts, that Iraq and the Iraqi leaders acted responsibly. Yes, we have weapons. But we will not use them irresponsibly. We will use them to defend our country, if the need arises.

If you wish to put us to the test, we are ready—I mean concerning the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. What are the guarantees for not using these weapons? Should it be by killing those who have them or by holding civilized talks with them to reach an agreement on the elimination of these weapons? We proposed this and this proposal still holds. Israel, which is the other party, is the one that rejects this. If you manage to convince them, since you have a great influence on them, there will be no problems. Concerning the different UN Security Council resolutions, is the question a difference in formulation, or does it deal with the essence, with international legitimacy? Of course, the UN Security Council resolutions differ one from the other. But what is their objective? They all seek peace, justice, and equity.

The objective of the resolutions that the UN Security Council issued on the Palestine question should be the realization of peace, justice, and equity. These resolutions have not been applied so far, however, and the Palestinian people continue to suffer from occupation, injustice, and terrorism.

These are well-known facts. Israel officially annexed the Golan and Jerusalem, which is an Arab city. The Israelis continue to speak about the West Bank and to call it Judaea and Samaria. Only a few days ago, Shamir explicitly said: We need these territories for Israel's security. The practical result for the Arab citizen, for us in Iraq, Jordan, and Palestine, and for the people and leaders in the region is that the UN Security Council resolutions have not been implemented and no measures were taken against Israel because it refused to implement them. On the contrary, you in the United States are

helping it financially and militarily. You are helping it politically in the UN Security Council. The occupation still exists while decisive resolutions were passed against us with an insistence to implement them. If they are not implemented, then the severest blockade will be imposed, including foodstuffs, medicines, not to mention the threat to wage war.

Therefore, the double standards are clear. If the issue is that of a legal discussion of this or that resolution, then I have much to say. You and I know how these resolutions were issued. You told me that you have been in office for 24 months. You did not go to any capital in the world to help issue a UN Security Council resolution. However, you have traveled tens of thousands of miles in order to convince the UN Security Council member states to issue the recent resolution. I also know how the other resolutions were issued, and what your role in them was. So we view these resolutions as being U.S. resolutions against Iraq. One proof that they are U.S. resolutions against Iraq is that you and I are sitting here today. Dialogue is not taking place between me and the UN secretary general, or between me and the foreign ministers of Ethiopia, the Ivory Coast, or Romania. This confrontation was turned into a confrontation between the United States and Iraq. Yes, you have allies, but we do too. Maybe our allies do not appear on the surface, as do yours. This means they are states whose names cannot be made public due to the complicated circumstances in the Arab region. However, we are not isolated from our people. I mean the Arab nation. Many Arabs are on our side, and if confrontation takes place between us, then you will have your allies and we will have ours. Once again we say: Will we head toward confrontation or should we search for a just, practical, and principled means to achieve peace? We are convinced and believe that peace cannot be achieved in the region unless there is a comprehensive settlement of all the region's issues, particularly the Palestine question. This is the crux of all problems. It is the cause that led to disturbances and instability in the region.

Sometimes, I imagine that if Iraq, with all its current means—in terms of its present leadership, army, and political capabilities—had been in Asia or Latin America, there would have been no problems between you and me. This is because, as I have said previously, we do not consider ourselves enemies of the United States. Our problem with the United States is Israel and that you are being influenced by Israeli policies. This has been a problem with you both before and after 2 August. If we tackle this problem in a technical and comprehensive manner, based on international legitimacy, fairness, and justice, then we will overcome many differences between us and we will not find ourselves in a position of confrontation. You will find me in Washington to discuss issues of economic and cultural cooperation with you, and I will find you in Baghdad for the same reason. We do not pose a threat to you or to your interests. Here—I will take some of your time—you do not look at us from a purely U.S. angle. Several times you put on Israeli glasses and look at us through them.

A few days ago, two U.S. officials were visiting us: former Texas Governor Connally, accompanied by another person from the State of Connecticut, whose name is White. White has been working with Iraq for 15 years. I asked him to give us his impression of his dealings with us over the past years. He said: My dealings with you have been fruitful and clean. I told him: Please tell this to U.S. officials when you go back to your country.

Before 2 August, we used to have huge oil reserves. We used to deal with the world in a responsible manner. We used to sell 700,000 barrels a day, out of 3 million barrels, on the U.S. market. This is a very big amount. This means that a country like Iraq cares about the economic situation in the United States. This is because the seller cares about the situation of the buyer. He must guarantee that the buyer can buy. Therefore, we do not threaten your interests. Regardless of how you view us and no matter what the results of the current situation are, Iraq does not intend to threaten U.S. interests. If we are attacked, we will reply bravely, courageously, and responsibly. However, in all cases, and when all the clouds have cleared, we do not have any desire to threaten anyone, particularly the United States.

Regrettably, we are heading toward an armed dispute. We do not know each other well, and you do not know us well. You will fight a country which you do not know. Allow me to say that you will regret this.

Baker said: It is clear that we differ on a large number of substantive issues. You said you do not constitute a threat to our interests. But since the era of Roosevelt, the United States obviously has had large interests in the Gulf. Now you are not threatening these interests because we moved very quickly so that you cannot threaten us and our Arab partners in the alliance. You told them until early on that morning that you had no desire to invade Kuwait. The question is not whether you are now threatening U.S. interests. The main issue is: Will there be a world order based on principles and an international order seeking to protect these principles and laws? I do not doubt your belief, but I am somewhat surprised by the fact that you believe in the soundness of your position on the invasion of Kuwait, while the entire world and even your allies condemned that invasion. From now on, and as we have said over the past months, we believe there is a major element in this issue, namely wrong against right. We cannot allow aggression to be a way of solving differences among big and small states. You can reject UN resolutions and say that all states followed the United States like little dogs. But if our position had not been sound and just, we would not have been able to make other states cooperate with us and establish an unprecedented alliance. You made terrible miscalculations, and we hope you will not make another one.

Let us say that we are not practicing double standards concerning the implementation of the Security Council resolutions or the weapons of mass destruction. You know that Israel itself was subjected to an aggression and

that it occupied the territories while defending itself. I do not think you will argue that this is similar to what you did in Kuwait.

The foreign minister said: I have strong reservations about this description.

Baker said: Regarding the weapons of mass destruction, the United States is also eager to hold a dialogue on this issue, and we proposed holding talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors and taking confidence-building measures, as happened in Europe, but not as a condition for your response to the UN resolutions or your withdrawal from Kuwait. Let me say that we do not make a big fuss about nations that possess weapons of mass destruction but do not use them, as much as we do about the nations that possess these weapons and use them. I took note of the point you mentioned, that these weapons have not been used against the Kurds, but there is disagreement between us. Let me agree with what you said about the Security Council resolutions regardless of where and when they were passed, but there is a difference between the resolutions that call for unconditional withdrawal and the resolutions that lay down a basis for negotiations.

Let me talk about what you have said: namely, that the Palestinian leadership found these events a golden opportunity to push its case forward. I say that this was the best argument I heard against linkage, because we utterly believe that aggression must not create opportunities and that aggression cannot give us solid ground for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I will try and say that the only opportunity for the Palestinians will be created through your withdrawal, not your aggression. This is why we are not willing to link the two issues. Another quick word about your comment regarding the economic war by Kuwait. I think Kuwait was very generous in its financial support for Iraq in its war against Iran. In mid-July, there was a proposal in OPEC about oil prices. The organization approved the price of $21 and 22 per barrel. We cannot accept, nor can the world community accept, a military invasion and dispersion of citizens because of an economic dispute, especially since Kuwait assisted Iraq during the war.

The foreign minister said: No matter what our differences are, meetings between us remain useful and they help clarify many things.

You said twice or more that your allies told you things about our intentions, and I know what you mean—President Mubarak's story; I was a witness to this story.

Baker said: That is one thing.

The foreign minister said: But it is the main one. A meeting took place in Tunis on 15 July. In that meeting, I delivered a speech which the Egyptians misinterpreted and got upset with. When we learned about that, my president telephoned President Mubarak and said to him: You are upset with Tariq; I will send him to you to explain everything. I have known President Mubarak for years, and we have had good relations. I went there, entered his office, and told him: Here I am in front of you; you can send me to Abu-Za'bal prison. We both laughed and then sat down. We spoke about the subject of Kuwait, because my letter to the Arab League secretary general had already been announced. After the conversation, I asked his permission to leave because I had a scheduled meeting with King Husayn. He said no, stay and meet King Husayn here. He telephoned President Saddam and told him that Tariq was staying. I stayed. In the evening, Usamah al-Baz [director of President Mubarak's office for political affairs] came to me and said: What do you think of us making an initiative on the subject of Kuwait. We are now holding a historic session, and I am not accustomed to talking badly about the head of an Arab country, even if he is standing against us now. But for the record, I must say what I am going to say.

When al-Baz said that his president wished to mediate the Kuwait issue, I was worried since I knew President Mubarak well. I had met with him in the morning and found his knowledge of history to be lacking. He did not know what had happened in the region or what the situation was like in the twenties, fifties, and sixties. All the information conveyed to him seemed to surprise him. I had the feeling, as a diplomat, that when such a person proposes to play a mediating role in a given issue, he will mess things up. And yet, I told him that Sa'ud al-Faysal had met with my president and he promised to come again to see what Sa'ud al-Faysal would do. We spent the night in Alexandria and met with King Husayn the following day, and then returned to Baghdad. A few days later, President Mubarak came and met with his excellency the president. They emerged from the meeting and we were waiting. On the Egyptian side were 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Usamah al-Baz, Safwat al-Sharif, Mustafa al-Faqi, and President Mubarak's office head Zakariya. Our team was made up, in addition to myself, of Mr. Ramadan, Mr. Hammadi, and the information minister. His excellency the president emerged from the meeting laughing, saying: Brother Husni, don't let the Kuwaitis rest easy, don't let the Kuwaitis rest easy before the meeting. As a diplomat yourself, what would you conclude? Then came King Husayn, who was told the same thing, but he came to a different conclusion. The president did not tell him what we would do. But King Husayn is smart and is familiar with the history of the problems and understands us quite well. Therefore, when he went to Kuwait, he told them the situation is very dangerous, but, sadly, they paid no attention to his warnings. Whether in good faith or for other reasons not unknown to you, President Mubarak failed to act accurately.

We have a history of dealing with the countries of the region, and we have not told them lies. When we are in disagreement, we are up front with them. We pay dearly for our frankness. We do not have two sets of policies, one overt and the other covert.

Baker said: You have said this with a good deal of conviction.

The foreign minister said: I was a witness and there were others.

Baker said: I know that you say this with a great deal of conviction. But in addition to Mubarak, others told us they had been misled and that representatives of your government assured them that there would be no military action against Kuwait. Once again, this is not the point of our discussion.

The foreign minister said: Its importance stems from a credibility perspective. Whether you like what we did or not, what counts is credibility. We are meeting now, and if God grants us success, we may pursue our work in the future. It is, therefore, important for you and me that what we say has credibility. I think you agree with me, no matter what our differences.

Baker said: Others have said what Mubarak said.

The foreign minister said: But King Husayn said something different.

Baker said: But Husayn called before the events and stressed there would not be an invasion, and so did Fahd and Mubarak, and Baker asked his assistant Charles [name as received] to talk about the subject.

Ms. Charles, who was a member of the U.S. delegation, said: We were alarmed by the size of the military buildup along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border and by certain pronouncements about Kuwait's policy. President Bush feels it is extremely important that he discuss these matters with his friends in the region, including King Husayn.

The foreign minister asked when.

Ms. Charles said: A few days before the invasion, and President Mubarak, who said ....

The foreign minister said: These contacts took place before the military action. King Husayn said he would go to Baghdad. This means that the contact took place before he went to Baghdad.

Ms. Charles said: He spoke before and after the visit and after he spoke to the Kuwaitis. Bush and Fahd also spoke on 1 August to talk about the Jeddah talks and the king's feelings about what had happened, because the talks ended very quickly.

The foreign minister said: I am certain that King Husayn had an impression different from that which Mubarak later conveyed. What King Husayn has told the Kuwaitis was different from what Mubarak said. I am ready to check this, you and I together, with King Husayn.

Baker said: I will be pleased to send a message to King Husayn and you can also send a message to him. But believe me, I know from my personal talks with some of these people after what happened on 2 August that the Kuwaitis, the Egyptians, the Saudis, and others believed that there was an assurance by your government that no military action would be taken against Kuwait. I accept what you say and I hope you understand that your Arab brethren in the region, with whom you were dealing, thought they were misled.

The foreign minister said: Their position now explains why they said that. Therefore, I give you an example of another country. King Husayn does not support us in all that we say, but he does not lie about us. Mubarak, Fahd, and the former rulers of Kuwait are now in the other camp.

The minister added: I hope you will review the minutes of King Husayn's meeting with Bush at his resort.

Baker said: I was there.

The foreign minister said: Let me explain the following about the issues you have raised. You talk about the world order, a world order based on international law and the principles of justice and fairness. I agree with you. I want such an order. But such an order must be applied to all people, and not to a certain case only, from your viewpoint alone. You must take into account our viewpoint, our concerns, and what threatens our security and our interests. If you can provide that, we will join you and the world in building this world order, irrespective of Iraq's area or population. In a new world order, Iraq can become a fortunate country because it has resources and cultural depth and has an active people and leadership. Therefore, the new world order does not frighten us or run contrary to our interests. Regarding your description of what we did on 2 August and your lack of conviction that it was a defensive act, let me say this. You are an experienced man and an expert. You know that the measure for power varies. If we compare the United States and Japan from a military perspective, we see that Japan is a dwarf while the United States is a giant. But in the economic field, Japan can shake your economy. You complain about that and there are major differences between you two.

Baker said: But we have not and will not raise arms against them.

The foreign minister said: But you did that.

Baker said: If we were attacked, yes.

The foreign minister said: But the former regime in Kuwait was an economic giant. It could, and actually did, threaten Iraq's security and existence. Let us go back to another point: namely, the condition of Israel and the Arab territories. You have mentioned twice, or even more than that, that Israel was a victim of an aggression, and you mean the events of 1967.

This is a faulty view of history, because it is Israel that made the first strike in June 1967, when it attacked Egypt and Syria. This is well known. I was alive at that time and I followed the events too. Historians wrote that Israel occupied the Arab territories as a result of its 1967 aggression, and it has kept those territories, except the Sinai, since the occupation 23 years ago. It officially annexed the Golan Heights, which is part of a sovereign country, and also annexed Jerusalem, on which there is a

special UN resolution defining its nature. So there are different facts about this issue.

I tackled the issue of weapons of mass destruction to explain our position to you after the 2 August events, because you are talking about this subject enthusiastically. I heard you and President Bush saying that Iraq poses a danger. How can we deal with these issues if there is a danger, as you imagine? We are ready to deal with these issues in order to provide balance in the region as well as security for all parties.

Regarding who will and will not use these weapons, we have explained our position. We have no guarantees that Israel will not use them. Who can guarantee that?

If you tell me that there are guarantees other than comprehensive disarmament, we will not be reassured at any time when we try to realize a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. Iraq's position is clear. It wants to eliminate all the weapons of mass destruction, and there should be tangible guarantees, like the ones you and the Soviet Union are discussing.

Regarding the golden opportunity for the Palestine question, I explained to you the feeling of the Palestinians. They are aware of their interests. As a people, they have suffered much over the past 50 years. They know their interests by instinct. At the same time, the Palestinian leadership is intelligent and knows who does or does not express their interests.

Regarding our threats to your interests, you believe that your military presence in the region protects your interests, but threatens us. I tell you that we have no desire to threaten your interests. This is our position, and you can test it. You have previously said: We do not believe that what you did on 2 August was for the sake of Palestine. I tell you again: Test us.

What are your considerations, fears, and doubts?

Baker said: I will test you now. We have many doubts as a result of what you did in Kuwait and your continued rejection of UN resolutions. You can overcome this problem, not only with the United States, but also with the rest of the international community, by complying with these resolutions. Please deem yourself tested. This comes six days before the deadline of the UN resolution that you reject.

I tell you in the same frankness that the deadline is a real one in the eyes of the international community. Consider yourself tested by this demand. This will enable Iraq to return to the international community, and the major threat to your nation will end. Neither the Palestine question nor Israel has anything to do with the issue. The question is that you continue to occupy a small neighboring country in defiance of the international community, which is asking you to leave. Please believe me that it was good to hold this meeting.

I do not believe that anyone in the world will accept your position on your entry into Kuwait. I know no one in the world, including those who say they are your allies, who says that it is self-defense. So I would not be honest if I do not say that we reject this because it is no excuse. I do not question your beliefs, but the rest of the world will not buy this.

Regarding the golden opportunity and the world order, which you said you want to see, we can say it is not an order that will create opportunities as a result of aggression. This is not the world order we want.

Let me say I am sorry because there are differences in our viewpoints on facts about the Palestine question and the occupied territories.

Regarding the 1967 events, Baker asked Ambassador Dennis Ross to make his remarks.v

Ambassador Ross, a member of the U.S. delegation, said: If one goes back to 1967 and looks into the sequence of events, it will be found that President 'Abd-al-Nasir asked the United Nations to remove its forces from the Sinai, the forces that Egypt had requested in 1957. When the United Nations responded to this call, Egypt not only moved major forces to the Sinai, but also closed the Straits of Tiran. Furthermore, the Egyptians moved five divisions to the border.

The foreign minister said: Inside their own territory.

Ross said: But toward the state of a small area. At the same time, the Egyptian defense minister said that those forces would throw all the Jews into the sea. Under those circumstances, Israel did not wait and at the same time, it asked Jordan to keep out of the dispute. But the Jordanian part of Jerusalem opened fire. After that, Israel responded.

The minister said: So the theory I conclude from what Mr. Ross has said is that when there is a threat or a provocation against a state, that gives the state the right to act, even to take military action.

Mr. Minister, you are a man of law and you know of so-called judgment in absentia. You are talking about Security Council resolutions over 50 years. The Arabs did not have problems with the Security Council and Iraq accepted all Security Council resolutions on the Iraq-Iran conflict. Iraq accepted the resolutions when it was strong and it accepted the resolutions when it seemed to others to be weak. It continued to abide by the resolutions. We participated in those resolutions, presented our ideas, and held discussions with Security Council members. When the resolutions were issued, we accepted them. It was the Iranians who rejected them. Let us look at the resolutions issued after the events of 2 August. Only hours after the events, Ambassador Pickering took the Kuwaiti ambassador to the Security Council and presented a draft resolution. Our permanent representative was not in New York; he was on his way to Baghdad for a vacation. The meeting was attended by the deputy permanent representative. I was not invited to the meeting to deliver a statement, and the Council

immediately jumped to Chapter Seven for the first time in the history of the United Nations.

From a legal and nominal point of view, the situation in the region at that time was as follows:

The forces of a state crossed into the territory of another state. Yes, this is true. But this has happened dozens of times in the past, and yet the Security Council did not resort to Chapter Seven in the first hours of the crisis; nor has the Council ever discussed a problem between two countries without inviting the foreign minister of the concerned state and listening to his statement about what happened.

Baker said: This is the result of your act, Mr. Minister.

The foreign minister said: You went into Panama. You have your explanation and we have ours; and there were many condemnations against you, even by your current allies. But of course, you have veto power, and so no one can pass resolutions against you. Anyway, what happened has happened. Is it possible to issue a resolution without listening to the concerned state? So, this resolution was passed in absentia.

If an American citizen was charged with some offense and a trial was held without inviting him or assigning a qualified lawyer, like you, to defend him, then the ruling would be null and the citizen would have the right to appeal. What applies to individuals applies to states.

Part V

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[Baghdad INA has not been observed to transmit Part IV of the 'Aziz-Baker minutes]

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—INA is pleased to transmit to esteemed subscribers the fifth part of the text of the minutes of the meeting held between Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who was the foreign minister in 1991, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Geneva on 9 January 1991.

The foreign minister: Resolution 242 was drafted through negotiations. The foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Israel, not to mention the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state, all worked for weeks in drafting the resolution. In contrast, Resolution 660 was not passed this way. You said that you had rejected renegotiation of Resolution 598. Regarding Resolution 598, efforts to draft this resolution began in January 1987. It was passed on 20 July 1987; that is, there was a seven-month period between the start of deliberations on the aforesaid resolution and the time it was passed. These deliberations were held among capitals and missions. I, for my part, visited Washington, Moscow, Paris, and elsewhere for this purpose. As for the Iranians, they were discussing the draft resolution indirectly. Therefore, this resolution can be viewed as a credible one. This resolution was discussed by all parties and took the considerations of all parties into account. On 2 August, we announced that we would start the process of withdrawal. You said that this was mere lies and untrue. But the United Nations...

Baker said [interrupting]: And this eventually turned out to be untrue.

The foreign minister said: But we made these statements and provided some pieces of evidence to corroborate this. It is you and not the United Nations who claimed the withdrawal reports to be groundless.

As for the second resolution, it was issued a few days after the passage of the first resolution. We do not have a problem with the Security Council as an institution responsible for safeguarding peace on the basis of justice and fairness if it acts in line with these responsibilities, if it deals with all parties fairly, and if it allows all parties to attend the trial, defend themselves, and bring witnesses.

Baker said: This is a futile legal debate. First, when we joined the United Nations, we all endorsed Security Council procedures, which were observed when all Security Council resolutions were passed. It is true that the first resolution was passed in a short time. The reason is that the world was and still is amazed by your act. You said that you would withdraw, and we said that you would not. We were right. Afterward, you said that you had been called in; nobody believed this then, and nobody believes it now. As a matter of fact, all of these claims have proven to be false.

It is impossible to work for the creation of a new world order using an institution responsible for safeguarding world peace, one that works according to the premise that countries will comply with the resolutions they like on a selective basis. Your acting UN delegate was there. Frankly, the world believes that what you did in Kuwait justifies the passage of this resolution. That is why the world community voted in favor of this resolution. Moreover, there was a debate at the General Assembly. All world states voted in a specific direction, whereas Iraq voted in the opposite direction. Iraq was represented in this debate. It took part in this debate and these deliberations which were held at the level of foreign ministers. You were invited to attend this debate, but you chose not to.

The foreign minister said: I have not received any invitation in this regard.

Baker said: You were represented by your permanent representative. The reason for denying permission to your plane was that Iraq was detaining civilian hostages and diplomats in violation of all international laws. I do not think that this behavior helps. Your position has become part of the past, but I cannot meet with you for hours without raising it.

The foreign minister said: I am a foreign minister, and I wanted to go to the United Nations whose headquarters

is in your country. I said I want to come in a private plane. In all my previous visits I used a private plane.

Baker said: We have no objection, but when you were detaining American civilians against their will, it seems to be difficult to try to appease you or your diplomats.

The foreign minister said: I understand what you say, but I am a representative of a country that is invited to attend the General Assembly meetings and you are committed in accordance with the headquarters agreement.

Baker said: Yes, we grant the entry visa, but we do not give services. In order to avoid dispute on this subject, the reason as I said was your detention of innocent hostages as human shields.

The foreign minister said: Last year we were forced to convene the General Assembly in Geneva.

Baker said: 'Arafat does not represent a UN member state and he did not officially apply for a visa.

The foreign minister said: You announced that you would not give him a visa.

Baker said: This is not true, and this issue took place during the previous administration. I was then an ordinary citizen.

The foreign minister said: We are speaking about the U.S. commitments and not about this or that administration.

Baker said: But we adhere to our legal commitments. He added: I want to ask you: Have you seen the Amnesty International report on your occupation of Kuwait?

The foreign minister said: This report is full of lies. I know that some incidents have taken place there in the city due to the change that occurred and due to the presence of a large number of foreigners. This happens in your country. When electrical power was lost completely in New York for one night in 1977, acts of killing and robbery took place although you are a developed country, so what would be the case if a change in power took place in a country whose citizens are one-quarter foreigners?

A Kuwaiti has a beautiful palace that is full of antiquities and then went to the French Riviera for his summer vacation, leaving an Indian servant. Then the authority changed, and the Indian can then take what he wants.

Baker said: Do you think the Indians have committed these actions?

The foreign minister said: The Iraqi who deliberately carried out such an action was publicly executed. You have many points against our regime, but being lenient with theft is not one of them.

Baker said: The report is a very dramatic document. Amnesty International is a responsible organization that is not affiliated with any party. As I have said, we have been following the situation over the past months, and we have not seen any disciplinary action taken against the soldiers. It will be useful if you would ask someone to get you this report, which clearly exposes your practices in Kuwait.

The minister said: Do you know that in the previous Kuwaiti regime, there were three degrees of citizenship as is the case in South Africa on which the civilized world has imposed sanctions. Amnesty International, however, did not refer to that in its reports. It is regrettable that you, as a democratic nation, are sending your sons to defend such a regime.

Baker said: The main point is the principle of not rewarding unprovoked aggression, which is very important. We cannot remain silent and watch a political change as a result of aggression, regardless of whether we liked the previous regime in that small country or not. Creating a political change is carried out through dialogue and negotiations, not aggression.

The foreign minister said: I have already explained the issue of provocation, and I have documents that were published. The next time we discuss this issue, I will ask Mr. Ross to join our delegation, because the theory he adopted in explaining the 1967 events permits a country, when it senses danger, to act as it deems appropriate. Despite this, if the issue is one of legal dispute, then we are ready to enter into such a discussion.

We did not have the opportunity to talk with you other than today, or to talk with your allies, especially those in Europe. We only talked to two permanent Security Council members, the Soviets and the Chinese. Also, we did not have the opportunity to attend the Security Council session on the first day to present our case. Of course, when we present our case that does not necessarily mean that the others will be convinced, but at least we would be given an opportunity. In the end, regardless of the differences between us on the history of the events in the region over the past 20 or 40 years, we are—as I have told you, and I stress this point—ready to accept international legitimacy and the bases of justice and equitability when they are applied on all cases, with our participation and the participation of the concerned parties. Then, we would have an opportunity to present our case, and the others would also present their case in an equitable and just manner, which would not make us feel that we are dealing with double standards. In accordance with these principles and bases, we are ready to work with you and the others to establish just and lasting peace in the region, and to participate in building the new world order.

Baker said: Let me go back to what I said in the morning. I said that I will move from the dark side of the presentation to the bright side. There will be no negotiations on these resolutions whether you agree on adopting them or not. The international community believes in this. I have listened with great interest to what you have said. I appreciate the tone of what you said. I hope you will show the same thing. I heard with interest your assessment of what will happen if a conflict

takes place. Allow me—in the spirit of communication, not threat—to say another word on this point.

I realize that because of your experience in the war with Iran you are aware of the cost of war. I doubt your conviction in this issue and your assessment of what you will face. This is your belief. However, let me add: Please, do not let your military commanders convince you that the strategy used against Iran will succeed here. I mean the international community. In fact, you will face a completely different force. We heard your statements that if a conflict takes place there will be many casualties. We believe, however, that this will not happen. I believe that it is very important—and this is not a threat, but to convey our conviction to you—that because of the superiority of the international community forces there, we are the ones to decide the terms of any conflict, not you. I do not say this to mean that you do not estimate the large costs of the war, or we do not estimate the costs. I believe that you estimate this. But the one who makes his calculations should do so on the largest possible basis of information.

I know that you do not want to respond to what I have said. However, we held very earnest talks. We are here with good intentions and seek a peaceful solution to this crisis, although I know that you do not agree on this point concerning us and our partners in the alliance. Midnight of 15 January is a very real date; time is getting close to midnight of 15 January, which is six days from now. We cannot and we will not agree on a respite or a postponment whether you believe us or not; this is your business.

Baker added: There are two other points I want to mention. I want to state them just to underscore them. You mentioned Panama and I hope you noted the speed with which we have come out of Panama. I suggest it to you as an example. The second thing is that I want to get from you, if it is possible as a colleague diplomat, a personal assurance that Joe Wilson, the charge d'affaires in Baghdad, and the four other diplomats, can leave Baghdad without any delay or restrictions.

The foreign minister said: Mr. Secretary, in your recent talk you referred to the differences between the war with Iran and what we could face if you embark on military action against us. I dealt with this subject in the past, and there is no harm to return to it in order to make clear that the military in our country are courageous men, but they are not reckless. They have long experience in warfare and long experience in knowing the efficiency of every force in a war, whether air, ground, or naval force. They are accurately following up your reinforcements and they have correct studies on your weapons. I know that the confrontation with Iran is different from the confrontation you intend to launch. We know this, but the war with Iran has not been an excursion. It was a very difficult war with all that this word means in the military field and with its political and psychological aspects. However, we endured and emerged victorious. We are not the ones who judge how much you can bear the results of the war, and I believe that it is incorrect from your side to judge our ability to bear the results of the war. We have our expertise and our estimates. What is more important is that we know our determination. We feel that we are victims of injustice. This is our feeling, and when a people have such a feeling and when a war is imposed on them, they will fight. Yes, you are a great power and you have the capabilities of other countries, but do not doubt at all my people's determination to remain steadfast. We are living in an area where feelings and history are interlinked. This creates very great complications in case a war breaks out between an Arab Muslim country and a foreign power like the United states.

Baker said: You will fight Arab forces.

The foreign minister said: I know that there are troops of Arab states deployed there. In the spirit of frankness which has permeated this meeting of ours, you offered me some pieces of information in the form of advice. Therefore, I will give myself the liberty of providing you some assessments in the form of advice. When a war breaks out between an Arab and Muslim country on the one hand and foreign powers such as the United States, Britain, and other foreign nations on the other, combatants will not keep in mind that they will be fighting to vindicate UN resolutions. This could be a serious concern in times of peace, particularly among politicians, diplomats, and legal specialists. But when people engage in a battle, when fire is exchanged, and when blood is shed, people return to their origins and sometimes act instinctively. I am here speaking from recently acquired experience. Two and a half years ago, we were engaged in war. We have firsthand experience in this. Consequently, the troop buildup you managed to stage will not obliterate the big fact which stipulates that the war would be between Iraq and the United States. It is true that there are Britons there, but few in number. As for the French, they are fewer in number. As for troops of other nations, they are fewer than even the French. As regards the Egyptians, Syrians, and other Arabs and Muslims deployed there, their leaders might tell you that they would fight on your side. However, the soldier in our region does not fight only when ordered to do so. Indeed, he fights out of convictions. Your country was established a long time ago, 200 years ago. As for Britain, it is also an old country. There might be a military doctrine stating that the soldier fights when ordered to do so regardless of whether or not he has political convictions regarding the fighting. In our region, however, things are different. Past experiences confirm this. Against the backdrop of your ties with Israel, I would like to tell you in all sincerity that if you initiate military action against an Arab country, you will be faced with hostile sentiments in the region, and in many Muslim states as well. With respect to the purely military aspect, it is true that we are not a superpower. We have never professed to be so. We are fully aware of our own weight. However, we possess a significant power derived from the fact that we would be fighting on our own soil.

Baker said: Does Kuwait come under this definition?

The foreign minister said: You have not crossed these areas by car. They have a similar geographical nature. There is the basin of the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers. The south of the basin in Iraq and Saudi Arabia is a desert or semi-desert. Our land is not desert in the full sense of the word. When rain falls, grass grows. But due to the shortage of water, it seems like a desert. Therefore, Mr. Secretary, we do not want war, yet we do not fear, despite all weapons and capabilities like the ones you have. I do not say this out of self-deception. I say it for two reasons. I have tried to explain the first reason to you, and I will repeat it in brief. We have been living war and its threats for decades. Our region is experiencing a state of frustration and despair about the future. The people consider life and death as fate, partly due to religious belief—be they Muslims or Christians. They believe in heaven and in another life better than this one. This is in the Bible and the Koran. Our people take this seriously and as a human fact. When a person does not find a satisfactory life on earth, then death becomes easy for him. This is a human fact. Human facts are relative. When there is a chance for a better life on earth, a person would adhere more to it. In past decades, we used to die in stages due to the conflicts in the region, mainly the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As I have explained to you, the situation in 1990—and I was sincere in my explanation—the prevailing feeling in our country and the region was that we were approaching a new cycle of death due to what I have explained to you in terms of Israeli threats, the tragic situation in the occupied territories, and the situation Iraq was placed in. Therefore, for all these factors, there is a feeling of tranquillity if war breaks out. It is fate that some people die and others live. On the political level, in the history of the region, never has a political regime entered into a war with Israel or the United States and lost politically. For instance, take 'Abd-al-Nasir's experiment in 1967. He was dealt a big unjustified military defeat. We, as Arabs, know that it was unjustified. He resigned, but the masses returned him to power. When he became absent from the arena, it was not due to a political coup or revolution, but rather due to natural death. This is a fact that must be taken into consideration. We have the intention to reach a peaceful solution. We have a deep belief that cannot be shaken, however, namely, that it is impossible to attain peace in the region without reaching a just solution to the Palestine question. This is the result of 40 or 50 years of my personal experience. Since I was a student in elementary school until now, no one has been able to convince me that peace can be achieved in the region without resolving the Palestine question. Would resolving the current problem lead to peace?

Baker said: Solving this problem cannot achieve peace between the Arabs and Israel; it can stop a destructive war, a war that will be destructive basically to the people of Iraq.

The foreign minister said: A few years ago we were at war with Iran. The war is over, but we did not achieve peace. You told me that you can exert additional efforts, if this problem is solved, to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. You referred to the efforts which you personally will exert. I honestly say to you: *We do not trust these* promises. Please do not consider this an insult. This is the feeling of the Iraqis and the Palestinians.

Baker said: First, let me tell you this is not a promise.

The foreign minister said: You noted President Bush's address at the General Assembly.

Baker said: I do not propose a special action in this regard in response to your compliance with the UN resolutions. I was only explaining the U.S. position.

The foreign minister said: But this is what we have heard from different sources since the beginning of the events. You visited the region many times, but I do not recall that you visited the region before 2 August. With regard to our country, nobody visited us except Mr. Kelly.

Baker said: I went to the region many times [word indistinct]. We had many other important issues, such as the unity of Germany and relations with the USSR.

The foreign minister said: I know that you were always preoccupied, and our issues come at the end of the list. [Words indistinct] I spent much time speaking about the dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians. We came very close, although we did not achieve success. It is obvious that this issue is one of the major problems in the region. [INA says more]

'Last Part'

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["Last part" of report on minutes of meeting between former Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held in Geneva on 9 January 1991]

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—INA is pleased to transmit to its esteemed subscribers the last part of the text of the minutes of the meeting held between Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and [former] foreign minister, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Geneva on 9 January 1991.

The foreign minister said: I have a different understanding and I have my reasons. The Palestinians used to keep us informed about developments as soon as they occured, and we know what was said and done. What is taking place will not provide a just solution to the Palestine question, but is merely to gain time at a time when Israel is continuing to occupy [Arab territories], to establish settlements, and to organize the emigration of Soviet Jews.

Baker said: I was not involved in these efforts to gain time. Perhaps, I might have been alone, but, as I said, this was not the reason for exerting my efforts.

The foreign minister said: I am not talking about intentions, but about results. You have said that 15 January is

a real date. We did not argue about this. However, we said that we did not recognize the UN Security Council's recent resolutions as well as the other resolutions because they are unjust and issued as a judgment by default against an independent country, Iraq. Therefore, dealing with this date is left for you. I tell you that for us, the matter has not changed. I told you that, since the beginning of the events, we have been expecting military action. Before the issuance of the last resolution by the UN Security Council, you and Mrs. Thatcher used to say that Article 51 of the Charter is sufficient for military action, and we used to take these statements seriously.

Now, I am pleased that this meeting has taken place. It is true that differences between us are deep, but we have been able to exchange views. Had this taken place earlier, perhaps we would have reached better results. Now, you are setting a final date.

Baker said: The international community said this 45 days ago.

The foreign minister said: What is important is that there is a date to which you refer, and the remaining time is very short. If we think about a serious diplomatic process, time will not allow one. I do not know what such a date means to you, whether you mean that after this date it would be possible to wage war. Of course, you can do this. If you are interested in further talks, however, then talks would be possible. When you feel that you are in a position to wage war, then matters are left for you.

I have a proposal: President Bush had proposed earlier that I visit Washington and you visit Baghdad. We agreed to this proposal, but we differed on the dates. I propose, as President Bush proposed, to visit Washington. If you set a date for me, then we will agree on this date, and you also will visit Baghdad. I am personally interested in meeting with President Bush to convey my impression about the meeting to my president. My president does not know President Bush, and President Bush does not know my president. Each of them hears about the other from various sources, some of which might be tendentious. You will have a chance to know President Saddam Husayn and to convey your direct impressions to your President. I believe that such a process will be useful. This is our proposal, and I leave this issue for you.

Baker said: This is the first suggestion from your side on direct negotiations, and comes six days before what we say is a real and final date. When President Bush presented his proposal, we were ready to receive you on 17 December and we only asked you to fix a date for my visit to Baghdad. We suggested that you select one of 15 days, but you insisted on one acceptable day, which is 72 hours before the final date. We said in the past, and I say it now, that you chose this date to play around with the final date.

President Bush said, let me tell you, that after your withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government to Kuwait, I will be glad to come to Baghdad.

I want to get an answer from you concerning Joe Wilson and the four other diplomats. We said on several occasions before 20 December that Iraq has to accept any of the 15 dates instead of playing around with what the international community believes is a final and real date.

The foreign minister said: We really have not understood your position concerning the dates. You proposed a visit to Washington and Baghdad, and President Bush suggested that my visit be held in the week beginning 10 December. I sat with my colleagues in the government to discuss the date in light of this proposal and found that the second half of this week would be Wednesday or Thursday.

Baker said: This means that any day between Tuesday and Friday was suitable. I was only waiting for my return from Texas.

The foreign minister said: Had we gone on Wednesday, Shamir would have been in Washington. Shevardnadze also was there. You would have been busy, and I did not want to be in Washington during the period when Shamir was there.

Baker said: We said okay, come on the 17th.

The foreign minister said: You know that the journey takes one full day and that it is necessary to rest after it. The meeting would be on Friday, then comes Saturday and Sunday. I was willing to meet with people. We have friends with whom we wanted to talk. I suggested Monday so as to spend the weekend.

We suggested 12 January for your visit, and you were angry and said that this would lead to exploitation of 15 January. We do not understand, you could have come on 12 January.

Baker said: It was possible for you to see me in Baghdad during the 15 days.

The foreign minister said: It was possible for you to come on the 12th.

Baker said: We would have discussed the postponement of the set date of the 15th.

The foreign minister said: You did not come. After seeing that no results could be attained, you could have returned to Washington and started the war on the 15th. We had reiterated through our common friend Genscher the rule that says that each president sets the date when he will receive the other minister, and if the U.S. side agrees to this proposal, we are ready to set a date for Mr. Baker that will be before 12 January.

Baker said: This was not communicated to us. But, if you want to start an operation, then why did you not accept President Bush's proposal?

The foreign minister said: President Bush's first proposal said that he wished to send Baker to Baghdad between 15 December and 15 January.

Baker said: The time was suitable for both sides. But the only suitable date for you was 12 January. It was not suitable for me to come after the third day [of January]. Your president managed to meet with Muhammad 'Ali, Connally, and Heath, but found no time over a period of 15 days to meet with Secretary Baker. You have chosen this, and that's why I cannot come to Baghdad.

The minister said: You mention visits that were made to Baghdad. These visits had been scheduled in advance. Some of these figures waited for days. Your visit is different. You will be meeting the president the day of your arrival, or the next day after you rest. In any case, we wish to pursue the talks and our stand is that I meet with President Bush and you meet with President Saddam Husayn. If you have made a decision to go to war, then you can carry out this decision at any time.

Baker said: We have not made such a decision and we do not want to do so. But the war started on 2 August, and what we are trying to do is to reverse this aggression against a small Arab country. Five months have passed and 12 UN resolutions have been issued. That's why the time for talk is being exhausted and the time now is for a concrete measure by Iraq showing that it responds to the UN resolutions.

The foreign minister said: I have a question. Why don't you encourage the so-called Arab solution?

Baker said: I don't know what this is. Some Arab countries say the solution lies in the UN resolutions and I don't know of any country which voted against this. As I have said, no Arab country has failed to condemn your invasion of Kuwait. You may have some allies like Sudan, Yemen, and to a certain extent Jordan. But these, too, have condemned the invasion of Kuwait. What is the Arab solution then?

We are working for a solution supported by six Gulf states, Syria, Egypt, and Morocco. A large number of Arab countries want to see these resolutions implemented. So, what do you mean by an Arab solution?

The minister said: If you mean the Cairo summit resolution, then this resolution is legally null and void. You can ask your legal adviser to study Article 6 of the Arab League Charter. This article stipulates unanimity in adopting any resolution such as the one adopted at that meeting. Many Arab leaders consider what happened in Cairo a farce. You are asking about an Arab solution. There are Arab solutions. There was a certain situation in Lebanon and there was an Arab solution to this situation. You supported the al-Ta'if agreement. Hence, there is a history and there are past experiences that allow for thinking of an Arab solution. This means a limited number of Arab leaders, including Iraq and Saudi Arabia, can initially meet and think of solutions. Such solutions can be presented to the international body in the future.

I met with the Yemeni president after your meeting with him in Sanaa. He told me that he told you that you have interfered in the Rabat meeting between King Hassan, President Bendjedid, and King Husayn to prevent making progress. Thus, the attempt was foiled. It is well known in our region that the United States is against such a solution. We ask: Why don't we try this method?

Baker said: There can be an Arab solution. Iraq can withdraw from Kuwait as demanded by the international community. Some said there was an Arab solution before 2 August, but you rejected it. As I have said, however, the majority of the Arab countries voted against you at the international body and supported the implementation of these resolutions. Baker added: How do you explain what took place at the General Assembly?

The foreign minister said: I know how votes were made and know that what took place was not serious. There are good Arab stands. We were in touch with Oman during the past period. Oman is for an Arab solution. Yemen is also for an Arab solution, and you heard that directly. Jordan and Libya are also for an Arab solution. The Libyan leader suggested a meeting between my president and King Fahd. Tunisia, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania, in addition to Iraq, are for an Arab solution. This means the majority supports an Arab solution.

I'll give you some facts. King Hassan called for an Arab meeting and he invited me to a meeting with Sa'ud al-Faysal in Rabat. Tunisia has also officially called for an Arab solution. Who then objected?

Baker said: You said Kuwait belongs to us and we have annexed it and do not care what the United Nations says. This is the main problem. I am sorry for this disagreement. As I told you, we did not make a decision but this does not mean that the date of 15 January is not real.

I know that you have been expecting things for a long time. This is because when one initiates military action, one expects to be exposed to the same thing. We clearly affirmed during the past 45 days that there will be no attack because such an attack has not been authorized by the United Nations. Time is passing, however, and what you have referred to as fate could happen. It goes without saying that this will be regrettable. For us, however, this final date is real. After doing nothing for five months and adopting a stand of rejection over a period of 17 days, you must do something. We will not retract our stands. We are frank and explicit on this point. We said any of these 15 days is suitable for us and we hope Iraq will grasp this opportunity. We wanted a date that suits our purposes. We said you can come to the United States on 17 December. But the President said that you did not consider his original proposal and therefore there will be no departure for Baghdad.

The foreign minister said: In any case, this is your decision. We wish to pursue the dialogue between us. I cannot ignore a major and serious fact that the only meeting between us takes place under the threat of this final date.

Baker said: This has been the case for 40 days.

The foreign minister said: With respect to the 40 days, I do not claim that I am well versed in the history of diplomacy but there has never been such a precedent; to try to reach a peaceful solution to a dangerous issue in a volatile region where problems and perils are intertwined during a period of 45, 12, or 6 days. Political and diplomatic action has rules that should be observed. The parties which are initiating political action should sense that they are not being threatened and having a sword brandished over their heads. This must not be the case if you want these parties to think in a constructive manner that will open new windows on the future and if you do not want to adopt decisions under pressure. This will not constitute peace. It will be capitulation. We do not accept capitulation, and I have explained to you the basic causes which make us not accept capitulation.

We want a comprerhensive and lasting peace, a peace based on justice, equity, and international legitimacy. This is our sincere desire.

Baker said: It took you two days to go to Kuwait, and five months have passed. We have had a protracted and intensive meeting. I am thankful for the opportunity to discuss these issues. I am disappointed with the absence of the possibility of a peaceful settlement. You must not think that a long time will be needed to discuss other issues in the region. We will not link this problem to them. We will work to settle the other problems as we have been doing in the past and in an intensive manner. We must ask you, however, to respect the resolutions of the international organization and there is nothing we can do in this regard. I have still not received any answer concerning Joe Wilson's case.

The minister said: We will apply international law on this issue.

Baker said: I thank you very much.

The foreign minister said: As for linkage, if military operations begin, all the parties in the region will participate in them. If these parties participate, after a period of time the war would stop—after one year, two years, or six months. I don't argue about time. You think it will be short but we are determined and confident that it will be long. After the war, will the region be left without peace? Will it be left for more future wars? If the answer is that there should be peace in the region, then those concerned with war should meet to make peace. Why don't they do so today?

Baker said: Why didn't they do so on the 20th [December] and after that until 3 January 1991.

The foreign minister said: I don't mean Iraq and the United States only, but also the parties that will participate in the war. It is certain that these parties are the United States, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Israel.

Baker said: If you respond to the Security Council resolutions, then there is a lot that can be done, but if you don't implement them and continue to say no, it [not specified] is for us, and we will keep it, and we should not have spoken after five and a half months.

It is possible that this has not taken place in the past. I did not study that, but I say that this international consensus is unprecedented. You can say that it is only the United States. Perhaps some are speaking about linkage, but they are very few and do not represent a force. Frankly, the 28 countries who have forces in the region don't have such a desire. Even those who will accept the idea, and their number is small, they will be there, their forces are there, and they will be committed. This may not have a precedent, but there is a huge international consensus and I believe that you are as isolated as a country has been for a long time.

I thank you again for giving assurances concerning the issue of the diplomats which I raised, and I request that they be allowed to leave Iraq on 12 January.

The foreign minister said: On the subject of linkage between the issues of the region, I heard more than one statement from you and from President Bush that you will not permit aggression, as you described it, to be rewarded, and that you don't want to reward President Saddam Husayn. We have not viewed the issue from the point of view of rewards.

You, the United States, are a big, strong, and rich country. There are problems in the world to which you pay attention, but your capital and your other cities have never been hit by a missile or attacked by a plane as has happened to Baghdad, Cairo, and Damascus. Therefore, peace for us is not a subject of reward as the case when someone goes to Stockholm to receive the Nobel Prize. This is not the question. For us the question is life or death. Are we going to live in dignity as a nation and have a future for our sons and grandsons, or will the conflict and killing continue? If the United States participates in realizing comprehensive and lasting peace in the region as a whole, then let the reward be for it and we will satisfy ourselves with the reward of a dignified life and the future of our sons and grandsons.

Baker said: I tell you that you can live in dignity if you accept implementation of the resolutions. Then, the negotiations will take place with any party that you believe is suitable, but we cannot set conditions for responding to the UN resolutions that deal with other factors and issues.

The foreign minister said: But there are UN resolutions on these problems.

Baker said: As I said, resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict regarding a solution through negotiations. We do not say withdraw without conditions. I do not want to argue about words.

The foreign minister said: I also do not want to argue about Resolution 660, because I do not recognize it. However, I heard someone saying that negotiations are an essential element in this resolution. This does not

mean that I am dealing with this resolution, but in order to explain. No Iraqi has said this.

Baker said: Resolution 660 refers to settling your differences with Kuwait through negotiations after withdrawal.

Ambassador Ross said: Are you ready to withdraw and to enter into negotiations with Kuwait?

Ambassador al-Qaysi said: The resolution does not say after, but says immediately for both issues.

The foreign minister said: I do not want to argue, but Baker said these resolutions, on the Palestine question and the Middle East, include negotiations, but this is not included. Twenty-three years have passed on the resolutions on the Palestine question and the situation in the Middle East, while a swaying sword has been above these resolutions, and here comes the issue of double standards. I said that the issue is that of respect for the United Nations, the UN resolutions, and international legitimacy. The UN resolutions must be respected.

Baker said: All the resolutions must be respected.

The foreign minister said: Israel did not respect this principle, and you did not implement the resolutions on air embargo and economic blockade on Israel. Can I interpret this as an effort to implement the UN Security Council resolutions? This is an aggressive act against Iraq. Had you exerted one quarter of your efforts toward Israel, I would not have argued with you.

Baker said: We have exhausted our efforts.

U.S. Under Secretary of State Kimmitt said: Here we recall Resolutions 242 and 338.

Baker said: Circumstances here are completely different regarding the way occupation took place. Without getting into the technical details, forces moved toward the Israeli border, threats were made to throw them [the Israelis] into the sea, and Israel fought against a number of states and emerged victorious, and this is how the occupation took place. However, here we find a state which possesses a military force—and a major imbalance of power—that went in and occupied. You have dealt brutally with a small Arab state. We view both issues differently, and we did not sit with folded arms.

The foreign minister said: Here comes the double standard.

Baker said: The agreement that exists—the Camp David accords—were concluded through our mediation. Kimmitt said that there had been a U.S. force in the Sinai for more than 10 years to ensure that the agreement was implemented.

The foreign minister said: The force you mention is part of the multinational peacekeeping force. What is important is that the Palestinian Arab territories have been occupied for 23 years. This is a fact. The Golan Heights were annexed by an Israeli decision, as was Jerusalem. Shamir daily reaffirms that this land is Judaea and Samaria and that settlements will continue to be built, killings will continue, and what you term as harshness continues. This is not from dubious reports, but is being substantiated by live facts that have been seen daily on television screens for the past four years.

I believe that double standards are being applied here. This is what the Palestinian people believe. How many days did it take the UN Security Council to discuss the recent resolution on the al-Aqsa mosque incidents, while many resolutions were passed against Iraq within the same time span?

Baker said: The reason that it took so long to pass this resolution is that we did not vote against it.

Ambassador al-Qaysi said: Is this a correct stand?

Baker said: If you do not like the way things are conducted in the United Nations, you can withdraw.

The foreign minister said: We are committed to the United Nations. The United Nations was established, however, for the sake of justice and peace. When double standards are applied, we feel sorrow. You said that it took some time to pass the latest resolution because you did not use the veto.

Baker said: We worked very hard.

The foreign minister said: You protect Israel. Had Iraq been an agent of the USSR, these resolutions would not have been passed against it.

Baker said: In the past they used their veto.

The foreign minister said: If you go back to the deliberations in 1961 and 1963, you will find that the Soviet Union supported us and obstructed Kuwait from joining the United Nations. We have no one to protect us, while you protect Israel.

Baker said: If you are poor, this is because you have spent all your money on weapons.

The foreign minister said: If we are to speak about poverty and weapons, there are many poor people in the United States who say the same thing because the U.S. Administration spends money on weapons.

Baker said: You say that since there are double standards in the United States, this justifies your invasion and bad treatment of a small Arab country so that you become equal with Israel. I do not understand this.

The foreign minister said: An aggression was carried out against Iraq, and Iraq has warned against this aggression several times. I gave you examples: memorandums sent to the Arab League, a speech by President Saddam Husayn at the Baghdad summit, and another speech on 16 July. Our country was threatened and we have acted to defend it.

Baker said: Would anyone believe this? I do not think anyone would believe this. He added: We have monitored [ta'aqqabna] the telephone conversation between King Husayn and Bush.

Ms. Charles said: We have obtained the transcripts, and I was wrong on one point. The President spoke with King Husayn twice; on 28 July and on 31 July. On 28 July, the President said: I am upset and I hope that the situation will not exceed the limits of reason. King Husayn replied: There is no possibility for this, and it will not reach this point. On 31 July, King Husayn told the President: The Iraqis are angry, but I hope that something will take place in the interest of greater cooperation in the region. The President asked: Without war? King Husayn said: Yes, I hope the issue will be like this.

The minister said: The second call took place during the Jeddah summit. This will not change the fact, because we hoped, along with King Husayn, that the Jeddah talks would lead to an agreement. King Husayn was expressing a hope. We also hoped, on the Iraqi side, that the talks would lead to peace. However, we were certain the Kuwaiti Government was proceeding with the conspiracy. This is why we acted.

Baker said: I understood what you said. You said that King Husayn told us that you will embark on this action?

The minister said: The king is very accurate and he said that Iraq is angry, and this is what he said in Kuwait. He did not say that Iraq will carry out a military action, because we did not tell him this. As a brilliant politician, however, he knows and can deduce how things will develop in such a case. I have made this comparison to explain that what Mubarak said was not true. This is because Mubarak's deduction was wrong, whether with good intentions or bad. His deduction was completely wrong, and his statement that President Saddam Husayn does not honor his word was slander.

Assembly To Meet 16 Jan To Expose 'Aggression'

JN1401092892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The National Assembly will hold a routine session within the framework of its fall term at 1000 on Thursday [16 January].

In a statement to an INA correspondent, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that the Assembly's next session will be devoted to the first anniversary of the 30-state aggression against Iraq, which has in practice revealed, through facts, the colonialist and aggressive spirit of the states that carried out that aggression, and their love for imposing hegemony over the world and for controlling the destinies and lives of the world's people. He added: The aggression against Iraq has exposed the West's rulers' false claims about democracy and human rights, and the civilized principles whose banners they claim to be upholding. This is because what they are doing now against Iraq, Libya, and several other states in the world conflicts with these principles.

He said that this Assembly session will shed light on all the facts related to the 30-state aggression with the aim of exposing the policies adopted by the United States and its allies, and exposing the traitors of the Arab rulers and hirelings who, through their actions during the past stage, have stood against the Arab people's will and the Arab nation's interests and aspirations.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih explained that a statement will be issued following the Assembly session to reveal all facts to the people, the nation, and the world. He noted that Arab and world parliamentary delegations will visit the country soon to get acquainted with the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blockade imposed by America and its allies to undermine Iraq's independence and free will.

Transport Minister on Repairing Port's Jetties

JN1101203392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini has announced that the competent departments of the ministry have rebuilt 21 jetties in the ports of Umm Qasr and Khawr al-Zubayr, making them ready to receive vessels and commercial ships, after the damage caused by the 30-state aggression.

In a statement to INA today, he said that sea routes leading to Iraqi ports, including the oil ports, have been made ready and that vessels can use them as soon as the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq is terminated.

He added that the Iraqi shipping cadres have prepared three sea routes from the Arabian Gulf waters to the ports of al-Bakr and Umm Qasr and from Umm Qasr to Khawr al-Zubayr, including Umm Qasr River, on which the 10 new jetties were built.

He explained that a number of the coastal electric cranes and equipment for handling goods are ready to load and unload ordinary goods and grain and that the huge conveyor belts in the ports of Khawr al-Zubayr and Umm Qasr are ready to load fertilizers and import iron ore.

Engineer Azhar 'Abd-al-Wahhab, director general of the state enterprise for the implementation of transport and communications projects, announced that the technical cadres of the state enterprise have rebuilt and repaired 32 warehouses in the port of Umm Qasr, which were completely destroyed by the planes of the unjust 30-state aggression.

She added that the outdoor storage yards and the cranes' tracklines and the railway lines on the jetties of the ports of Umm Qasr and Khawr al-Zubayr are also ready and have been rebuilt.

Leaders Comment on Progress of Washington Talks

Shamir Pleased With 'Progress'

TA1401102692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that progress has been achieved in the Washington talks. Mr. Shamir hopes that the progress will continue. Israel is determined to pursue the negotiations and not to stop them, despite all the difficulties. The prime minister voiced the hope that the Arabs will adopt the same attitude, which will increase the chances of achieving positive results in the discussions.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction with the fact that the progress in the Washington talks was achieved without any U.S. intervention. He asserted that he considers this a good sign for the future. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister was speaking at a meeting with Italian parliamentarians.

'Serious Response' From Arabs Awaited

TA1301115992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Report by 'Idan Miller]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not sound too worried this morning by the Moledet and Tehiya factions' threats to quit the coalition if the autonomy issue is raised at the peace talks. Shamir, who was the guest of honor at a ceremony inaugurating the last and newest stretch of the Ayalon Highway, sounded optimistic when he referred to the political process and the peace talks opening in Washington today.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We have little time at our disposal in this round of talks, but if there is a serious response from our interlocutors, we may expect progress or at least the beginning of progress.

[Miller] Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen said this morning that, in coordination with Moledet, both the Tehiya and Moledet will quit the government if the autonomy issue is raised in the negotiations. What do you say to that?

[Shamir] Well, I believe they will reconsider. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Referring to reports that the Justice Ministry is preparing plans for a constitution, Shamir said that he does know the details, but he trusts Justice Minister Dan Meridor to do a good job of it.

Levi Hoping for Substantive Talks

TA1301202092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister David Levi said he hopes that sufficient progress will be made in the bilateral talks in Washington within several hours to clear the table of procedural issues in order to begin to deal with substance. Minister Levi spoke with our correspondent in Lisbon where he is conferring with Portuguese Government leaders. The Lisbon talks are centered on the preparations for the multilateral talks in Moscow in late January. Yo'av Tocker reports:

[passage omitted] In his talks with the Portuguese Government leaders, Minister Levi heard criticism, even if mild, of Israel's expulsion policy. Levi's counterpart Pineiro promised that the EC would come to the Moscow talks with the intention of making an economic and psychological, but not necessarily political, contribution.

[Begin recording] [Levi, broadcast in progress] ...projects good for the region and which—with international aid—will lead to cooperation between Israel and the Arab states for economic development.

[Tocker] The division between political issues in Washington and economic issues in Moscow is acceptable to the Europeans?

[Levi] I explained it and they understand the logic of it; otherwise we will reach a dead end with each side pulling in a different direction. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Moledet, Tehiya To Quit Coalition Over Self-Rule

TA1401054892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi of the right-wing Moledet party said this morning that if there is accuracy to the reports that Israel has proposed an intermediate solution for Palestinian self-rule in the territories, his party will announce its withdrawal from the coalition at the next cabinet meeting [19 January]. Ze'evi said that self-rule means autonomy, and autonomy implies a PLO state in the heart of the Land of Israel.

Minister Yuval Ne'eman of the Tehiya party has also threatened to withdraw from the coalition. Professor Ne'eman spoke a short while ago with reporter Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin Ne'eman recording] If indeed the Israeli delegation has presented the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation with a plan for autonomy or self-rule for the Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, we regard this as indeed the first step on a route leading to a Palestinian state or, anyhow, to the loss of these territories to Israel, which we consider as catastrophic and, in fact, endangering the existence of the State of Israel. So, I won't make my decision only on the basis of radio reports, but if indeed the information is confirmed, then we shall present our resignation to the government this Sunday and Tehiya—and probably Moledet—will leave the governmental coalition. The government will be left without its majority in the Knesset. It will have either to survive on the goodwill of the Labor Party or to go to early elections. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Notion of 'Temporary Deportations' Ruled Out

TA1401111792 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Jan 92 p 7

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Text] In a legal opinion recently submitted to the chief of staff, the Military Judge Advocate's Office rules out Baraq's notion of deportations for defined periods of time, both for legal and practical reasons. The Military Judge Advocate's Office states that such a notion has been ruled out by the State Attorney's Office in the past and that any such fundamental decision on the part of the defense establishment would have to be submitted to the State Attorney's Office.

The Army has been discussing the idea of temporary deportations in various forums ever since Baraq raised the notion last week. As recalled, the chief of staff mentioned the possibility of resorting to such a method to effect massive deportations in a meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The legal opinion of the Military Judge Advocate's Office notes that the broad use of deportations might undo the Supreme Court's interpretation of the punishment of deportation mentioned in the Geneva Convention, which allows its use on an individual basis.

The legal opinion raises the question of all those deportees who have been expelled from the country indefinitely, of what would happen if all or some of them submitted petitions to the High Court of Justice in the wake of such a decision. Such petitions might lead to the return of many deportees, and it would be impossible to ascertain that they had desisted from their terror activities during their stay abroad, the legal opinion notes.

The duration of the temporary deportations also entails practical and legal difficulties, mainly because the procedures regarding deportations for indefinite and definite periods of time are similar. The Military Judge Advocate's Office points out that the question of temporary deportations was raised in the past but was ruled out due to a variety of considerations.

Arens—Israel, Gaza 'Must' Remain Economic Unit

TA1401113292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that any political solution must leave Israel and the Gaza Strip as one economic unit.

In a meeting with the recently elected members of the Gaza Chambers of Commerce, Minister Arens said that the economic situation in the Gaza Strip must be improved in conjunction with the political process. Factories must be set up and jobs created so that most of the residents will find employment in the area and not in Israel.

The minister called on the Chamber of Commerce to help establish banks in the Strip and promised to make life easier for the population if there was a drop in the level of violence.

Sharon Envoy Seeking 'State Land' in Territories

TA1401115692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon has in the past few weeks sought the services of Pli'a Albeck, director of the Civil Matters Department at the State Attorney's Office, to locate state land in the territories with the purpose of establishing new settlements.

In the past few weeks, Albeck toured two sites in the territories where Israelis were killed in terrorist attacks: the Tapuah junction in the West Bank, site of the Rehelim outpost, and the Dayr al-Balah junction in the Gaza Strip. She was accompanied by representatives of the defense establishment, the Justice Ministry, and the settlers. It is not clear whether Defense Minister Moshe Arens was informed about Albeck's tours, but aides in his office said the minister has not ordered any staff work with a view to establishing a settlement in the Dayr al-Balah junction. [passage omitted]

A few days ago, Sharon asked Albeck to visit Kefar Darom in the Gaza Strip to conduct the staff work for the establishment of a settlement in memory of the late Doron Shorshan, who was murdered by terrorists at the Dayr al-Balah junction. Albeck toured the place with the defense minister's assistant on settlement; Gabi Saluk, a Gaza Strip Civil Administration official; and Yitzhaq Weissfish, a representative of the settlers in charge of planning and construction in Gush Qatif. Weissfish emphasized that they had been conducting staff work in anticipation of the establishment of a settlement on the site.

Sha'ya Segal, the construction and housing minister's spokesman, confirmed that Albeck had been asked by Sharon to tour the site. Asked whether the team had been conducting staff work, Segal said: "The minister asked her to locate state land." Sources in the Construction and Housing Ministry said that Albeck has been dealing with land matters and locating state land for many years and is considered an expert on the issue. They described Sharon's request from Albeck as "cooperation between government ministries."

Probe Shows Knesset Passed Direct Election Clause

TA0901123992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky has announced that the votes taken on the electoral reform bill on Tuesday were miscounted. This means that the Knesset plenum did endorse Clause No. 3 on the direct election of prime ministers.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Dov Shilansky said he has examined the tape and the Knesset minutes of the vote proceedings. His examination revealed that Knesset Member Avraham Verdiger from Agudat Yisra'el did not reply the first time his name was called; he did so only later, when his name was called out again. It is possible that an unknown Knesset member answered on Verdiger's behalf, and his name was thus counted twice.

Speaker Shilansky's announcement means that the vote result is 57 for the clause and 56 against. Shilansky said he will announce his decision at the Knesset plenum session on Monday [13 January].

Our correspondent notes that in the wake of the speaker's decision, the Labor faction has decided not to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motions on Poverty

TA1301182492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Knesset transferred the bill on the direct election of the prime minister to the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee and rejected four motions of no confidence in the government on the poverty situation. Our Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that 60 Knesset members [MK's], including Binyamin Netanyahu, supported the transfer of the electoral reform bill to committee, while 55 opposed it, and Yiga'el Hurvitz abstained because the Likud did not decide on a date to conclude the committee discussions. Earlier, Uri'el Lynn, the committee chairman, handed the NRP [National Religious Party] MK's a letter promising that the committee discussions would last six weeks.

Kakh Leader Resigns Over Members' Inactivity

TA1301061992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The head of the Kakh movement, Rabbi Avraham Toledano, has left the movement. Toledano said he was resigning because members of the movement were no longer active. Other Kakh leaders welcomed Toledano's resignation. They said the rabbi had no leadership skills.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the late Rabbi Me'ir Kahana's son, Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana, has asked Toledano to join his group, Kahana Hay [Kahana Lives].

20,000 Barrels in Negev Emitting 'Toxic Gases'

TA1401120792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Avi Gan'or]

[Summary] Israel produces 1,200 cubic meters of radioactive waste every year in places such as "the nuclear reactors in Dimona and Nahal Soreq, university research institutes, hospitals, etc."

Mikha Avni, director of a Lod-based company which recently won a bid to remove radioactive waste from the Dimona Nuclear Research Center, said "that large quantities of radioactive waste accumulate in Israel every year. In the best of cases, this waste is removed to the toxic waste dump in Ramat Hovav" in the Negev. He added "that the waste is mostly removed in barrels that do not meet the required standards, thus posing a real threat to the environment." Furthermore, Avni noted: "Some 20,000 barrels of toxic waste are now standing in the open air in Ramat Hovav. The barrels are rotting and emitting toxic gases."

State of Intifadah After Four Years Assessed

TA1401084292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] In 1991 there was a 30-percent drop in the number of disturbances and violent incidents in the Gaza Strip compared with previous years. Greater daring has recently been observed in the activities of the various terrorist organizations. The central problem now is terror. These details were revealed in an internal debate at the Southern Command to sum up four years of intifadah. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe is here with the details:

The debate was headed by Major General Matan Vilna'i, the head of the Southern Command, and included representatives from all the security bodies in the Gaza Strip. In the meeting, a drop of 30 percent in disturbances throughout the Gaza Strip was reported. It was also noted that the number of terrorist attacks this year was equal to the number of such attacks in previous years. The security bodies nevertheless pointed out during the discussion that the activities of the various terror organizations have recently shown greater daring. For example, only in recent months have the terror groups conducted activities such as throwing grenades, planting explosive charges, and engaging in firearm attacks on main roads, such as that in which the late Doron Shorshan was murdered. In the Shorshan case, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol passed by a short time before the murder and again a short while after, without spotting the murderers.

It was further reported that 21 local residents were killed by IDF gunfire in the Gaza Strip during 1991, while 100 Arabs were killed by fellow Arabs on suspicion of collaborating with Israel.

As for curfews in the Gaza Strip: There has been an almost 90- percent drop in the number of curfews imposed this year compared with previous years.

It was also reported that during the past three months, three Gaza Strip outposts have been abandoned. Most activities now originate in central outposts, with remote outposts being torn down to save manpower and money. A senior officer told us that different methods are being employed to cope with the intifadah today. The struggle against rioters is different than the war against terror. He

explained and stressed that there is a total differentiation between disturbances and terror activity.

During the meeting, the cooperation between the IDF, the Shin Bet, the Civil Guard, the police, and the judicial system was commended. This cooperation helps reduce the level of violence and is of assistance in the war against terror.

Lahd Calls for 'Immediate' Israeli, Syrian Pullout

TA1401065992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] Responding to questions by news correspondents in Marj 'Uyun, General Antoine Lahd, the commander of the SLA [South Lebanon Army], said that he has released 85 detainees from al- Khiyam prison over the past few weeks. There has been no response so far by the terrorist organizations. We are still waiting for news and for the release of the POW's and the MIA's, Gen. Lahd said.

The SLA commander also addressed the continuation of the peace talks in Washington and asked: Why do the Lebanese threaten not to participate in the peace talks with Israel if the other Arab countries do not send their representatives to the talks?

Lahd also called on Israel and Syria to remove their forces from Lebanon immediately. The Syrian Army in Lebanon threatens Israel's security, while the Israeli Army in Lebanon threatens Syria, Antoine Lahd declared. [passage omitted]

Denies Impending Deal on Prisoner Trade

TA1401104392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] SLA [South Lebanese Army] Commander Antoine Lahd has denied reports from Lebanon that the United Nations is close to closing a prisoner exchange deal. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that speaking in Marj 'Uyun, General Lahd said that the reports claiming that the detainees at al-Khiyam prison will be transferred to a neutral country prior to their release are totally unfounded.

Defense establishment sources also said that at this stage, there is no new information regarding the MIA's.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 14 January carries a related report on pages 1 and 2, adding that "in Uri Lubrani's opinion, no real breakthrough has been made with regard to a swap of the Lebanese prisoners and the Israeli MIA's. He told DAVAR last night that Israel is now focusing its efforts on obtaining information about Ron Arad's whereabouts and will not agree to any arrangement of the kind reported in Lebanon. In his opinion, the Lebanese reports are partly intended as psychological warfare."]

Body of 'Terrorist' Found Near 'Security Zone'

TA0901155392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The body of a terrorist was found this morning near the village of Yatar, adjacent to the security zone in south Lebanon. Hand grenades and his personal weapon were found nearby. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the villagers who found the body summoned UN Nepalese soldiers. A statement issued by UNIFIL's [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] spokesman notes that the UN officers believe the terrorist was shot from an Israeli helicopter gunship and adds that Israeli Army troops were looking for a terrorist gang in the area yesterday.

PFLP 'Terrorist Target' in Lebanon Hit

TA1001131692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Israel air force jets attacked a terrorist target east of al-Damur in Lebanon. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that the target was destroyed and all the planes returned to base safely.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe adds that the target belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, headed by Ahmad Jibril, and was used as a staging point for terrorist attacks.

SLA Units Shell Tuffah Region

TA1101182792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The South Lebanon Army [SLA] last night and this morning shelled the Tuffah region in south Lebanon. Reports from SLA command say the firing was aimed at terrorist targets east of Sidon.

Red Cross: SLA Siege on Rshaf Continues

TA1101124492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The International Red Cross says that the SLA [South Lebanese Army] siege on the Shiite village of Rshaf is continuing for the 13th consecutive day. Beirut papers write that the Lebanese prime minister instructed the head of the Lebanese delegation to the Washington talks to raise this issue at the beginning of the negotiations with Israel.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned from the SLA command that this village is not under siege. According to a senior officer, two weeks ago a Rshaf resident helped Hizbaliah terrorists murder an SLA

soldier at the outskirts of the village, and consequently General Lahd canceled various benefits the Rshaf residents had enjoyed.

Monthly Salary of SLA Soldiers To Rise

TA1001091792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] The commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], General Antoine Lahd, revealed last night that the Israeli Army is to add another million dollars to its budget for civilian aid to the residents of the south. The SLA chief spoke at a New Year's celebration in Tiberias organized by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command.

The head of the command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, said Israel has no territorial demands in Lebanon, aside from the demand for security and tranquillity along the border between the two countries.

Gen. Lahd said the monthly salary of SLA soldiers is to be increased from $160 to $220 a month. He said there would be no one happier that himself if Israel were to eventually sign a peace treaty with Lebanon, but he said that if the Lebanese are representing the interests of Syria, the current situation will not change for many years to come.

Abu-Jabir Expects Moscow Talks To Be Postponed

JN1301123092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Doha, 13 Jan (WAKH)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has expressed the belief that the multilateral conference, due to be held in Moscow on 28 January, will be delayed until the end of March.

The Jordanian minister said in a statement to the Qatari AL-'ARAB newspaper that he has information that the conference will be delayed for two months in order to narrow the differences in viewpoints between the Arab countries and Israel and because the new Russian leadership is busy rearranging the internal situation after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the establishment of the new commonwealth, and the differences between Russia and the Ukraine on controlling the Black Sea fleet.

On the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: We will not relinquish any of our rights.

The Jordanian foreign minister described the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination as at its the highest level, but coordination with the other Arab parties taking part in the negotiations is less than what is needed.

Amman Denies Report

JN1301202092 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Jordan today denied a report that Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir has said that the multilateral talks, due to be held in Moscow at the end of this month, would be postponed. The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB published this report today, quoting its Amman-based correspondent. A Jordanian source said that the foreign minister had not met the newspaper's correspondent, nor made any such statement.

King Comments on Moscow Talks, Arab Ties

JN1101204592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Excerpts] This evening, His Majesty King Husayn visited the Prime Ministry and met with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir in his office. Royal Court Chief 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah attended the meeting.

His Majesty King Husayn then chaired part of the cabinet meeting, listening to detailed explanations from the prime minister and the ministers of education, public works and housing, energy and mineral resources, municipal and rural affairs and environment, information, supply, health, agriculture, and social development, on the measures taken by the state services to handle the state of emergency caused by the blizzard that recently hit the country. [passage omitted]

In his remarks during the cabinet meeting, His Majesty King Husayn discussed Jordan's views on the multilateral talks scheduled for Moscow. He said: We have always demanded an international conference to discuss some main issues not raised in the bilateral talks.

He explained that Jordan is studying the developments resulting from the collapse of the Soviet Union. He stressed eagerness to strengthen Jordan's relations with the new emerging republics, especially the Islamic ones, and to expand and deepen prospects for cooperation with them.

His majesty stressed that Jordan is also eager to rebuild bridges and develop relations with fraternal Arab countries with a view to serving the sons of the Arab and Islamic nation. He said: We have never been reluctant in performing our duties; we feel satisfied and our conscience is at ease.

Iraqi Agriculture Minister Arrives for Talks

JN1101152292 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0932 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Amman, 11 Jan (PETRA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Sabbagh, minister of agriculture and irrigation in fraternal Iraq, arrived in Amman yesterday on a two-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the minister will meet with a number of officials and discuss with them ways to increase cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all agricultural fields.

The minister expressed his thanks and appreciation to Jordan—king, government, and people—for the position it has adopted toward the just Arab causes and its intensive endeavors to support joint Arab work.

Libyan Envoy Makes Statement, Departs

JN1201184792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Libyan envoy 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud left Amman today following a short visit to Jordan. During the visit al-Qa'ud conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Minister of Agriculture Dr. Fayiz al-Khasawinah and the Libyan ambassador in Amman bade him farewell at the airport.

Prior to his departure, the Libyan envoy spoke to Jordan Television about his mission.

[Begin al-Qa'ud recording] In fact, I had the honor of handing a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with the Libyan position on the fabricated accusations against Libya. The message also clarifies to our brothers in Arab and Islamic countries and the other brothers in African and Asian countries, and the European countries as well, the scenario according to which some parties are moving; namely, politicizing this issue and keeping it away from the judiciary for which we are committed to take all necessary legal and judicial measures. They are politicizing this issue by presenting it or trying to present it to the UN Security Council [UNSC]. This contradicts

the UN Charter and the bylaws of the UNSC. The UNSC was not established by all world countries in order to deal with judicial issues. I had the honor of clarifying all these points and conveying the message that the brother colonel has entrusted me to convey to His Majesty King Husayn. [end recording]

Visiting Polish Official Discusses Trade Ties

JN0901133892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Minister of Planning Dr. Ziyad Fariz today discussed with Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majefski and his delegation the economic relations between Jordan and Poland, particularly adjusting the trade balance, which is currently in favor of Poland.

Dr. Fariz reviewed the principles on which Jordanian economic policy is based and the Jordanian programs for confronting the economic burdens that resulted from the return of about 300,000 Jordanian citizens from the Gulf states.

He stressed that in light of the international economic developments, there is need for a comprehensive revision of economic spending, particularly in the fields of investments and trade, noting the importance of the private sector in Jordan and Poland in realizing more of the objectives sought by the economic and commercial sectors.

He emphasized the need for activating the executive program for cooperation between the two countries, which covers the period between 1991-1993 in order to increase the benefit from it in the interest of the two friendly countries, in addition to laying down the principles for developing this cooperation and increasing trade in various fields.

On his part, Majefski stressed the Polish Government's desire to increase cooperation between the two countries, and to open new horizons for cooperation, especially in light of the economic conditions and the international changes in this field.

Ways of Boosting Trade Noted

JN0901180792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur discussed with Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majefski aspects of bilateral cooperation, especially in economic and trade areas. Dr. al-Nusur stressed the need to hold a meeting of the Jordanian-Polish joint committee to discuss ways of increasing trade between the two countries.

For his part, Mr. Majefski stressed that the Polish Government was interested in studying and carrying out development projects in Jordan, especially after the economic and political changes in Poland. He then praised the distinguished democratic experience in Jordan.

Administrative Reform Plan Detailed

JN1301094192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The government is determined to carry out reform in public administration in Jordan and the reform will be tied to a timetable to which all government departments will be committed, Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir announced Sunday.

The prime minister said that he would personally follow up measures related to the reforms and announce to the public areas where progress has been achieved towards reform and would not hesitate in exposing shortcomings and delays in achieving progress in this reform.

Addressing a meeting of the Civil Service Council at the Prime Ministry, al-Sharif Zayd said that the government plans to introduce measures by which "excelling employees will be rewarded and those who fail to carry out their duty will be held responsible for their shortcomings and have to account for their failure."

The time has come for a comprehensive revision of the public administration system in Jordan because there can be no meaning for planning to introduce economic and social reform as long as the public administrative system remains backward and outdated and with employees lacking incentives," said the prime minister.

He said that the government plans to introduce a law for the creation of an independent body which will be entrusted with modernising legislation in accordance with the provisions of the National Charter and will try to create a national integrated data bank providing information that can make the socio-economic development programme a success.

There is no alternative to embarking on immediate measures to deal with the points of weakness, and there can be no alternative to working out an integrated plan designed to coordinate work among the various government departments concerned with development and to promote the work of human resources, al-Sharif Zayd said.

The country's civil services system provides for the creation of special units to carry out administration development and offer training to employees in every ministry or government departments, said the prime minister. Based on these provisions, this council bears the responsibility for general planning for development while the Civil Service Commission shoulders the responsibility for helping to carry out reform so that the country's socio-economic development programme can go ahead unhindered, he said.

Al-Sharif Zayd said Civil Service Council has exerted efforts to lay down a comprehensive plan for administrative reform which started in 1990 in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). But, he noted, the many changes that occurred in Jordan, specially in the social and economic fields, slowed down the public administrative development programme and it is to be noted that

the Gulf war and its consequences on the Kingdom weakened the government system's performance.

Al-Sharif Zayd reminded the council that the royal message to the government upon its formation last November specifically emphasised the need for carrying out administrative reform and laying the foundation for measures to stem such practices as favourism so as to open the way for the government to absorb only the qualified and distinguished.

He said that the government had pledged before Parliament to carry out reform within a limited period of time and a fixed timetable.

The prime minister said that the Upper House of Parliament has voiced its willingness to fully cooperate with the government and the Lower House towards carrying out reforms while the Lower House stressed that it will help the government to introduce changes that would ensure simplified procedures and routine to address the points of weakness and define responsibility of various departments.

Based on these concepts and ideas, the prime minister said "I hope that the message is clear to all departments and their staff" that the government is very serious to carry out reform in the country's public administration system." [quotation marks as published]

"This time I will take personal responsibility in following up procedures in the reform and report to the nation about progress or failure," the prime minister said.

The prime minister said the government plans to take into account the various reports, studies and research conducted in this respect which pointed to a serious imbalance in the administrative system, summed up in the following points:

—Lack of an integrated plan to coordinate work among the various government departments including the Civil Service Commission, the Audit Bureau and the Institute of Public Administration;

—Adhering to old and obsolete procedures that cannot cater to the needs of the socio-economic development process;

—Holding on to routine that continues to delay the accomplishment of important government business;

—Absence of an integrated plan for the development of human resources and lack of a national plan for training government employees to offer a better performance;

—Scarce statistical information and ill-planned decisions;

—Poor sense of responsibility on the part of the employees due to lack of incentives;

—Lack of plans to dispose of centralisation and failure to take steps to encourage decentralised decision, in the provinces;

—Failure on the part of the administration system to cope with the fast growth in government business.

The prime minister said that the following procedures are to be followed to deal with the weakness:

—Clear definition of the overall administration development plan;

—Developing human resources which means training, and encouraging competitiveness;

—Setting up organisational plans [to] help government departments to interact;

—Developing the methods and techniques of government business;

—Introducing a system for planning, executing and following up the implementation of development schemes;

—Developing local administration in the provinces with a view to encouraging decentralisation;

—Giving due attention to modern technology and its utilisation as best as possible;

—Creating incentives for employees to offer a better performance.

"Time should not be wasted in carrying out the required reform and I expect from the council to supply me with a fixed timetable for implementing the required reforms and the methods to be adopted in this regard," the prime minister said.

"You should give due attention to the need for simplifying procedures adopted at government departments, specially matters directly affecting the public and I expect an executive plan to be finalised within three months," he said.

Al-Sharif Zayd encouraged the council to present him with defined ideas which can be utilised by the government to cater to the needs of the environment and public health and ideas about stimulating financial and economic activities and investments in the country.

He said that an independent body should be set up to carry out inspection of government departments to monitor their performance and the behaviour of their personnel in line with the provisions contained in the National Charter and in accordance with the requirements of public interest.

"I believe that the reform programme should be a national effort. Therefore it should involve various organisations including universities and research centres," he said. The public reform should be a continuous process and acceptable to the public opinion in a society which enjoys democracy, he added.

Following the prime minister speech, the council held a session under Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Education Dhuqan al-Hindawi during which it reviewed the prime minister's directives.

The council decided to set up a four-member committee to work out recommendations to be discussed by the council, taking into account the prime minister's directives and aimed at speeding up the process of administrative reform.

The council scheduled another meeting for next Sunday to follow up the work on this plan.

The Civil Service Council groups ministers of planning, labour, finance and higher education, Civil Service Commission president, the legal advisor at the Prime Ministry, and the director of the Institute of Public Administration. It also includes the director general of the Arab Potash Company, representing the private sector.

Senate Approves Draft State Budget

JN1301170992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Upper House of Parliament held a session this morning chaired by Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi and attended by the prime minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and cabinet ministers.

At the beginning of the session, the Upper House heard a report by its financial committee on the draft state budget law for the current year. The report noted that the government's economic program is realistic, balanced, and can restore healthy growth to the national economy. The report also noted that the program is oriented towards building the kingdom's hard currency reserves, reducing the rate of inflation, and providing more job opportunities, while working seriously to resolve the problem of unemployment and achieving a high standard of living for the people.

Several members addressed the session, presenting their remarks on the budget. The finance minister also spoke in the session, replying to the remarks made by the Senate members. He asserted that the economic program will alleviate burdens which the citizens are shouldering, also will improve the income of low-income groups, and will provide government subsidies for foodstuffs, the national aid fund, and the fund for development and operation.

The Senate endorsed the draft state budget law for the current year.

Editorial Views Minutes of 'Aziz-Baker Meetings

JN1101202592 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Jan 92 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The Dialogue of Mind and Murder"]

[Text] Reading the secret minutes of the meeting between the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States prior to the U.S. aggression against Iraq not only put the political observer in front of two contradictory views or two opposite opinions, but also in front of a cultural state, represented by the Iraqis, and a barbaric state, represented by the Americans. Tariq 'Aziz went to Geneva motivated by a deep and true desire for dialogue and to deal with logic while James Baker went there motivated by a deep and real desire to kill and to crack the whip. It was natural that the meeting did not produce any results and it was also natural that a civilization, thousands years old in terms of logic, wisdom, and intellectual accomplishments, was unable to come closer to a civilization only three centuries old and which is replete with killings in civil and external wars.

Reading the minutes clearly shows, as has been also demonstrated by other pieces of evidence, that it was possible to avoid the aggression and prevent the U.S. Administration from adding a new black record to the series of black records that constitute the true history of the United States. However, this humane opportunity to avoid a barbaric aggression was lost because the international community was dragged into serving the U.S. military option; because the Arabs and Muslims could not, due to the majority of their Arab and Muslim leaders, be true to themselves and stand against the aggression; and because a war against a brother, financed by the coffers of its brothers, does not worry the Westerners, as they gain much from it and do not care what they lose ethically, humanely, and morally.

James Baker said that the U.S. aggression against Iraq would not only seek to oust the Iraqis from Kuwait, but also to destroy all that was built by the Iraqi people. Baker added: If Iraq decides to withdraw from Kuwait, the Iraqi leadership will win the opportunity to continue leading Iraq and determining its future. But, if the Iraqis are to be driven out by military power, then a new leadership will take over!

Baker affirmed that if the coalition launched its war against the Iraqis, it would not attack the Iraqi forces withdrawing from Kuwait. One year later, we find ourselves facing only one fact, that the Americans went to the Arab homeland and mobilized their forces at our expense and had the Arabs and Muslims finance their aggression with the sole objective of destroying what the Iraqi people have built.

Baker went to Geneva and sat opposite Tariq 'Aziz on a sumptuous chair in a luxurious building, but he had a leather patch over one eye, a chain in one of his hands, and he passed his time clipping his fingernails with a dagger. It was only natural that the only purpose for his coming, as has been cogently established, had been to convey one message to the Iraqis and all the Arabs; that U.S. soldiers were coming to kill and destroy, as the soldiers of Hulegu had done in the past.

We wonder: Where is Hulegu now? What about the Iraqis? What will be left of the murderers? And what will

be left of the logic? Baghdad, which has always emerged from among the wounds, represents the Iraq which has been embodying, over thousands of years, the ethical, humanitarian, and cultural contributions, an Iraq which did did not exercise murder in the four corners of the earth nor had it had the honor to use the most lethal chemical and biological weapons in Vietnam. It also did not have the privilege of being the first to drop a nuclear bomb on the Japanese people.

Iraq has never been a murderer, and today it is not a victim. This is because principles and values, not tanks and rifles, score victories and protect civilization, and expose terrorism and murder everywhere and at all times.

PLO Envoy Delivers 'Arafat Message to al-Hirawi

NC1301155692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Statement by Shafiq al-Hut, head of the PLO office in Lebanon, followed by remarks in response to questions by an unidentified correspondent, after his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Beirut on 13 January—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Hut] I had the honor of meeting with his excellency the president today, and I conveyed to him a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. During our cordial and positive meeting we discussed a number of issues, the most important of which is the need for coordination between the confrontation states and the PLO on the course of the Washington negotiations. Arab coordination and unity will undoubtly help the Arab negotiator, irrespective of his regional identity. We also discussed bilateral Palestinian-Lebanese relations and the situation of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The discussion dealt with the living, social, and economic conditions of these people. His excellency the president promised to give this issue due consideration. We will meet again to discuss other details.

[Correspondent] Bilateral negotiations will resume in Washington today. What will the Palestinian position be if the Israeli side insists on negotiating with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

[Al-Hut] I think Israel created this procedural problem in an attempt to avoid entering into substantive talks. As a Palestinian delegation, we submitted a proposal to remove this obstacle because the PLO and the Palestinian people are interested in discussing the political issues, including the occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. We want to discuss Israel ending its occupation of our territory. I hope we can overcome this procedural obstacle because we do not want to face the prospect of withdrawing from the negotiations because of a procedural problem. We want the matter to be clear: The Palestinian people are determined to struggle politically and by all other means to regain their land and their legitimate rights.

[Correspondent] What is the situation of the diplomatic status of the PLO office in Lebanon?

[Al-Hut] The PLO office officially exists. The Lebanese Government has never asked us to close the office, and the PLO has not withdrawn its mission from Lebanon. On an official level, therefore, the relations are still the same. This is an opportunity for me to say something many of you might not know: Lebanon was the first Arab state to recognize the PLO office when it granted us diplomatic immunity and facilities. The various problems that have taken place in Lebanon have paralyzed the PLO's ability to function. We in the PLO and the brothers in the Lebanese Foreign Ministry are waiting for a suitable opportunity to restore things to how they were in the past, God willing.

Israeli Raid Missed PFLP-GC Camp Target

NC1001171992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] A source close to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] called the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY and said that the Israeli air raid did not hit its target, the PFLP-GC camp in Harat al-Na'imah. He added that there are no PFLP-GC camps in the area. The source noted that the raid hit the homes of some gypsies who live behind the former Ghandur wood factory in Harat al-Na'imah, causing deaths and material losses.

Minister on Preparations for Syrian Meetings

NC0901212592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Interior Minister Staff Major General Sami al-Khatib has held an expanded security meeting focusing on topics he will discuss in the first coordination meeting with Syrian Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and security agencies in Damascus. The meeting is going to be held to set firm and basic principles for organizing Lebanese-Syrian security arrangements and resulting decisions. After the meeting, Minister al-Khatib made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Al-Khatib] Our meeting today was to prepare for the first coordination meeting with the Syrian interior minister and security agencies in Damascus in accordance with our security agreement. I asked the leaders of our security agencies to prepare all the files we will need to take to coordinate Lebanese-Syrian actions in accordance with the security agreement. We hope the next meeting will be in Beirut.

I informed all the agencies and those present about the basic decisions approved during the Arab interior ministers' conference, in particular those proposed by Lebanon, especially the decision made to set up a drug rehabilitation center in the al-Biqa' region, specifically in Shtawrah and its suburbs or the western al-Biqa'. This drug rehabilitation center, which will be financed by the Arab interior ministers' council, will help people from all over the Arab world.

We also proposed setting up an Arab police academy. We discussed working together, especially in fighting drugs. I also informed those attending today's meeting that the interior ministers decided to work with international organizations to help Lebanon transform some agricultural practices which have damaged Lebanon's reputation—the planting of hashish—into beneficial plants that can be marketed locally and abroad. The Arab interior ministers' council will also help Lebanese farmers financially in this matter.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is there anything new about the social services in the southern suburb?

[Al-Khatib] We feel for those living in the southern suburb and the other suburbs. We need to begin large-scale action to secure all the services the suburb needs. We will start at the Ministry of Interior. We will first strengthen all security centers so that they will be able to perform their role. Second, a traffic safety week will begin next week. Third, we will revive the southern suburb's development programs to provide all the required health and social services. All these directives have been issued to the Jabal Lubnan governor. This issue will be presented to the cabinet after the details are set.

Birri Urges 'Democratic Freedoms' for Media

NC1201140392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Amal Movement Leader Minister Nabih Birri has stated that the Cabinet's recent decision on the media conflicts with the spirit of the al-Ta'if Accord and the recommendations of the seminar on the media, which underscored the democratic freedoms and the need to safeguard them. He called on the Cabinet to rescind this decision.

In an interview with Voice of the People, Birri noted that private television stations have taken the lead in keeping up with the march of legitimacy. He added that trading off the decision to suspend newscasts on private television stations in exchange for approving the Cabinet by-laws is unacceptable.

Fadlallah Rejects Media Restrictions

NC1201194792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has rejected any attempt to restrict the media. He said the government has the right to control the limits of freedom but it has no right to close its doors.

Hizballah Berates Government's Performance

NC1201103492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Hizballah has issued a statement commenting on the bestial Zionist raid on al-Na'imah, the government's response to the repeated Zionist attacks, and other domestic issues.

The statement says that the government is doing nothing to alleviate the economic difficulties of its citizens and is ignoring their needs. The government continues to make questionable decisions that only worsen the current injustices and make the situation more intolerable. The statement criticizes the government's decisions concerning the collection of light weapons and the so-called reorganization of media.

The statement adds that the negotiations in Washington have made the country vulnerable in every sense. The statement notes that Zionist commandos are roaming our country, setting up checkpoints as if they were in occupied Palestine, and act as if they are responsble for security in this country.

The statement says that political sectarianism taints every aspect of the government's work and that the proposed regulation of radio and television aims to ban free speech in the country.

The statement denounces the criminal attacks on our people in al- Na'imah, saying that the least we owe them is to stand firmly against the usurping Zionist enemy. The statement blames the Lebanese regime for squandering this country's land, wealth, and rights by failing to confront the enemy and by taking part in the selling-out of homelands at the Madrid and Washington conferences. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Denies German Terrorist Reports

NC1301083892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] In response to local media reports citing German media reports that accuse Hizballah of sending terrorist groups to Germany, a responsible source in Hizballah has made the following statement:

At a time when we deny reports by German media in part and parcel, we regret the German Government campaigns of machination and slander which are not befitting to the reputation of any self-respecting nation.

The source adds: We believe that this government and its specialized departments on combating crime still live under U.S. control and pressure which makes it lose its sense of objectivity and sound judgement. He believes that accusing Hizballah has made this government fall into a blackmail trap set by the U.S. Administration, which is responsible for supporting the greatest terrorist and criminal state in the country, the Zionist entity.

Peace Talks' Atmosphere Said 'Not Encouraging'

JN1401100592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek arrived in Damascus last night on a visit to Syria. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Netherlands ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff received him at Damascus International Airport.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Hans van den Broek praised the good relations between the Netherlands and Syria. He stressed that Syria plays an important role in the region and in the current talks to achieve peace. He said that the EC hopes that the talks will proceed in a positive direction. He added: The EC's contribution will be there when it is needed, and it will continue its contacts with all the parties concerned. The EC is concerned about peace and stability in the Middle East.

Hans van den Broek urged all the parties concerned to exert continuous efforts to make the peace process succeed. He said: The failure of the talks will be a failure for us all. It also will have a catastrophic effect on the international community.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' answered questions posed by the journalists accompanying Hans van den Broek. He said: Thus far, the atmosphere of the talks is not encouraging. We have just heard that the Israeli negotiating delegation will leave Washington on Wednesday or Thursday, and that they will hold talks only on the venue of the next round of talks. I believe that this is sufficient proof that they are not serious about achieving results during these talks.

Answering a question on the future of the peace process, al-Shar' said: I believe that the United States, in its capacity as a major cosponsor of the peace talks, the EC, and the international community should play a more effective role in helping the parties reach peace agreements.

Replying to a question on the Syrian role, al-Shar' said: Our delegation has clear instructions that it should work seriously to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide the basis for the peace conference. It is clear to the world public opinion that Syria has done all it can to make such a thing possible in the region.

Practical Measure Needed for U.S. 'Credibility'

JN1101161892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In two separate articles this morning, AL-THAWRAH comments on the atmosphere in which the current round of Middle East peace talks is being held.

Under the headline "Continuing Its Maneuvers," AL-THAWRAH says that Israel has not abandoned its position of rejecting the principles adopted by international legitimacy. AL-THAWRAH notes that a clear and blatant evidence of the continuation of this rejection of the peace process is that as soon as all the Arab delegations had arrived in Washington, Israeli warplanes launched a flagrant aggression in broad daylight on the al-Damur region, south of Beirut, which resulted in the killing and injuring of dozens of citizens. At the same time, Zionist enemy artillery bombarded many towns and villages in southern Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH says: To further disrupt efforts being exerted in the peace process, the Israeli Government has continued to pursue various forms of persecution, subjugation, and the violation of human rights against all Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories. It recently permitted Zionist settlers and their organizations to commit acts of persecution against Palestinian citizens.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH notes: All this clearly demonstrates that the Arabs are the ones who truely want to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. Israel, however, is still intransigent and is continuing with its misleading maneuvers which, until now, have wasted opportunities for serious discussion with the Arab delegations on substantive issues linked with the peace process.

Under the headline "Respecting the Resolution by Implementing It," a second article in AL-THAWRAH says that the new round of Middle East peace talks has been made conspicuous by the events preceding it. AL-THAWRAH discusses the two most prominent events on the international and Arab levels which should reflect positively on the course of the talks. These events are the UN resolution condemning Israel for deporting 12 Arabs from their occupied territories and the subsequent Arab resolution which has a bearing on the peace process; namely, delaying the departure of the Arab delegations to the Washington talks as a gesture of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

AL-THAWRAH says: The UN resolution reflects support for the just Arab position and a willingness to continue the peace talks. It is also a frank declaration in support of the legitimacy and justice of our people's struggle in the occupied Arab territories against the Israeli occupation. It is a recognition of Palestinian rights and their legitimacy. This declaration should be implemented in order to ensure a positive atmosphere.

Concluding its second article, AL-THAWRAH says: We want a practical measure on the ground to confirm U.S. credibility and to prove that the new international order decreases rather than increases the number of serious world problems.

TISHRIN on Shamir's 'Intransigence'

JN1401081392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Shamir's Intransigence," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Through his statements yesterday, the enemy prime minister cut the way for making any progress in the current peace talks in Washington when he confirmed the return of the Israeli negotiating delegation tomorrow, Wednesday. He also insisted on continuing to discuss procedural issues and setting a new venue for the next round of talks. Many people are astonished and wonder: Why should the Israeli delegation interrupt the negotiations which have barely started? Should not the task of achieving peace come before anything else?

TISHRIN adds: At first glance, one thinks that the current pictures are upside down because the Arabs are the ones calling for peace, and Israel is the one evading peace. The truth is that the Arabs have always been advocates of peace and justice, and Israel has always been an enemy of peace and justice.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Although several months have passed on the U.S. efforts, Israel has continued its hostility toward peace. It is clear that there will be no means to obligate Israel without resort to the many means of pressure that are available to the United States.

Lebanese Minister Arrives for Cooperation Talks

JN1301170492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Major General Sami al-Khatib, the Lebanese interior minister, and his delegation arrived in Damascus this morning on a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Interior Minister Muhammad Harabah, his assistant Major General Ahmad Sa'id al-Salih, a number of the Interior Ministry central administration officers, and the police chief of the governorates of Damascus and the Damascus Rural Area received him at the border checkpoint in al-Judaydah.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, al-Khatib expressed his joy in visiting Syria. He said: Our visit to Damascus is a confirmation and embodiment of the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination, and the security agreement between the sisterly countries, Syria and Lebanon. He said that during this visit he will hold talks with concerned officials at the Syrian Interior Ministry on drawing up the future coordination meetings on all security levels of concern to the people in both countries. We hope to draw plans for the next stage with our brothers in Syria, serving the interests of our people in the two fraternal countries, Syria and Lebanon, especially at this stage which our Arab nation is facing. Thus, we will translate the desire of our people and the directives of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi in this area.

In a statement to the Lebanese information mission accompanying the Lebanese interior minister, Muhammad Harbah said: We have invited the Lebanese minister of interior to visit Syria in order to draw up an integrated picture and a program to implement the defense and security agreement which emanates from the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two brotherly countries. He added: As you know, the administrations and bodies concerned must meet periodically to draw up implementation programs to put the security agreement into practice. Naturally, these programs will facilitate work between the concerned parties and bodies in both countries, be it in the field of security bodies, criminal security, combating drugs and organized crime, or traffic problems. Thus, we can benefit from each other's experience as ministries whether in the areas of legislation, laws, regulations, and all that could benefit us. Through this, we can accomplish our ambitions in both countries to implement and translate the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination as well as the directives of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilias al-Hirawi.

Talks Begin

JN1301180092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus—The Syrian Arab side, headed by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, and the Lebanese side, headed by Lebanese Interior Minister Major General Sami al-Khatib, held a first session of talks at noon today in the presence of the members of both delegations.

Dr. Harbah welcomed al-Khatib and his delegation, then presented them with a detailed explanation of the Interior Ministry's great tasks in all fields, particularly referring to the ministry's great accomplishments after the glorious Corrective Movement led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. The minister also spoke about the importance of this coordination meeting between Syria and Lebanon, the importance of the topics raised for discussion, and for making the appropriate decisions on them in implementation of the treaty of brotherhood, coordination, and cooperation, and the security agreement between the two countries. He stressed the Interior Ministry's concern to place executive programs in all fields to serve the people in the two sisterly countries.

For his part, al-Khatib expressed his deep thanks for this meeting. He noted the importance of the topics to be discussed by the specialized committees in preparation for making the necessary suggestions and decisions in order to set up executive programs for future work between the two sisterly countries. The minister praised the Interior Ministry's great accomplishments under the historic leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Afghanistan

Najibollah Discusses Efforts for Peace

AU1301215192 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2007 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Interview with President Najibollah by Erich Macho in Kabul; date not given—recorded; Najibollah speaks in Dari with superimposed translation into German]

[Text] [Macho] Could you describe the military and political situation?

[Najibollah] In a few provinces on the border with Pakistan, in the east and southeast, where it is possible for military units from Pakistan to cross the border, violate the border, or even intervene militarily, the situation remains troubled militarily. In general, however, people in Afghanistan are tired of war and are longing for peace. The opposition has called for an end to the war. Most commanders want peace; Western intellectuals, the supporters of the king, the Afghan Government, they all want to solve the Afghan problem politically and peacefully. Fortunately, this desire corresponds with international proposals, for example the UN resolutions and the declarations by the former Soviet Union and the United States regarding the halt to all arms supplies. All this has made it easier to embark on the road toward peace.

[Macho] Why do you not negotiate with the mojahedin; where are the problems?

[Najibollah] As I said before, the main problem is outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Once this interference ends, and—with support of international organizations—the Afghans would be able to begin to talk with each other alone, I do not see any more obstacles to peace. As soon as outside interference ends, the Afghans will immediately sit down at the conference table and negotiate. Then peace would even be brought to Afghanistan before long. I want to emphasize that I am optimistic as far as the future is concerned. In my opinion, the main obstacle to peace in Afghanistan is that other countries constantly intervene in some way or other.

[Macho] Mr. President, I do not want to be impolite, but if it were required for peace in Afghanistan, would you be willing to resign?

[Najibollah] Well, it would require various steps. The international community should help the Afghans to hold talks among themselves. A transition mechanism without outside pressure and interference should be set up. Once the question of securing peace is clarified, the people should decide themselves in free elections monitored by the United Nations.

Islamic Unity Party Official on Mojahedin Role

LD0701234592 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA—In the face of the various obstacles on the way of solving the situation in Afghanistan, among them the absence of a consensus among various groups of the mojahedin in that country, it is difficult to say whether the problem in Afghanistan will be solved in the current year (1992).

The emergence of new parameters in Afghanistan, such as the presence or absence of such personalities as Zaher Shah and political parties in the future government of that country, as well as changes in the attitudes of certain countries towards Afghanistan, and the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the implications thereof offers a new political environment to the political analysts.

In its Tuesday issue the afternoon daily ETTELA'AT published the text of a recent interview with member of the Central Council of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, Qorbanali Erfani, who has offered his analysis of the situation as well as his prediction of the framework of future developments in that country.

The following is the text of the interview:

ETTELA'AT: The interim government of the Afghan mojahedin was to be disbanded and replaced by a new council. What came of that? What will be the position of the Islamic Unity Party in the new council?

Erfani: The provisional government was founded in Peshawar in 1988. Mr (Sebghatollah) Mojaddedi visited Tehran as head of the interim government and held talks with the then coalition council. Within the context of their talks a protocol was signed between Mr Mojaddedi and the spokesman of the coalition on the basis of which the coalition council based in Tehran would be represented in that government. Everything indicated complete agreement between the two sides, but unfortunately some of the people based in Peshawar rejected the protocol. Thus from that time we did not participate in the provisional government. Sometime ago it was said that the provisional government had been disbanded and that a new administration would be created.

On the basis of the information available to us the mojahedin based in Peshawar have a leadership council and another proxy-council the latter having the role of settling which will eventually help form the new government.

The Peshawar-based mojahedin invited the Islamic Unity Party to participate in the assembly in Peshawar which it did not fulfill for various reasons. The Unity Party is not against the plan in principle, but is opposed to the manner of its execution. In that connection the party has its own plans and arguments. We believe that the party should be allowed to perform its due role since it comprises one-third of the population in Afghanistan.

Because of the above reasons we did not participate in the assembly in Peshawar. If we should ever participate in such assemblies we will present our viewpoints and our plans.

ETTELA'AT: The mojahedin in Pakistan seem to fall into two groups: one group that advocates military solution, and another that advocates a political solution. Which of the two alternatives does the Islamic Unity Party recommend, and what is the understanding of your party of the "political solution"?

Erfani: Our party advocates both alternatives. We consider the military solution as being a practical and unfailing solution to the situation in Afghanistan, but despite that we do not reject the political alternative. In other words the policy of the Islamic Unity Party is based on approving any sort of constructive talks which may help the people of Afghanistan attain their goal of instituting an Islamic government in their country and winning back the denied rights of the people of Afghanistan. We will participate in political talks while we do not overlook what a military measure will have in stock for us.

ETTELA'AT: Which of the two alternatives has thus far helped the Afghan people more than the other?

Erfani: We should find out in what way the people of Afghanistan have imposed their own will on their enemies during the past 13 years. The military operation of the Afghan people during the past few years have been very successful. The ouster of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan was made possible only by relying on military force. This is the potential of the struggling (jihad) people of Afghanistan. Obviously the situation is now different. At the time being there are also diplomatic parameters which we perfectly consider. For example the tripartite Iran-Pakistan-mojahedin in Tehran and Islamabad which was made within the context of the plan of the United Nations was among our diplomatic measures. Thus in the future we will concentrate on diplomatic solution more than we did before.

ETTELA'AT: How will the disintegration of the Soviet Union affect the process of solving the situation in Afghanistan?

Erfani: Obviously the disintegration of the Soviet Union will positively affect the solving of the situation in Afghanistan because in the past a solid superpower protected the government in Kabul which made the struggle more difficult for the people of Afghanistan. But the disintegration of that superpower can potentially make our struggle easier, especially because the Russians are sorry for what they did in Afghanistan in the past and they believe that the solution to the situation in Afghanistan must be Islamic.

Also in the recent past Russia has discontinued help to Kabul which will make it easier for the mojahedin. Meanwhile, Russia is not in a position to defend the Najib government. In addition the independence of the Muslim republics in former Soviet Union is in the interest of the Muslim people of Afghanistan which can harmonize the neighboring Muslim nations of the region.

ETTELA'AT: On what topics were the talks between the Islamic Unity Party and (Russian Vice-President) Alexksandr Rutskoy? Did the talks, as Western news agencies commented, collapse?

Erfani: The talks with Rutskoy in Tehran mainly concentrated on Moscow talks. The peaceful solution to the issue in Afghanistan and how to entrust the power to the people in that country as well as the character of the future government in that country, which must be Islamic, and the issue of Russian prisoners of war were included in the talks. The envoy from the Russian Federation said that Russia had discontinued help to the government in Kabul and that on that basis the Russian prisoners would best be freed. The principal talks in Tehran pivoted on those topics. The Islamic Unity Party on the basis of the agreement and with respect to humanitarian principles will do its best to secure the freedom of Russian prisoners.

ETTELA'AT: So you did not talk about possible alternative solution for solving the situation in Afghanistan?

Erfani: A commission is to form in that connection.

ETTELA'AT: In your opinion will the issue of Afghanistan be solved in the current year? If your answer is yes, what role do you think Zaher Shah and the Watan (Homeland) Party, and mojahedin will play in the shaping of the future of that country?

Erfani: It is a little premature to make any prediction in connection with the situation in Afghanistan this year. We cannot say with certainty that the issue will be solved this year, but whether it will take a long time or whether it is going to be solved in a near future the mojahedin are of the consensus that such personalities as Najibollah will have no role to play in the shaping of the future in Afghanistan. The principal and the key role in the future of Afghanistan will be played by a group of people who were actively on the scence during the past 13 years. So those who have not thus far played a role will not be able to play a role in the future.

Iran

Government 'Following' Developments in Algeria

LD1301122192 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 13, IRNA—"Our foreign policy is based on noninterference in internal affairs of other countries," said First Vice President and government spokesman Hasan Habibi here Monday concerning Iran's stand towards the recent developments in Algeria.

Speaking to reporters at his weekly press conference, Habibi more on the same subject said mass media of the

countries which claim to be supporters of freedom and democracy and believe that people should determine their own fate, are attempting to distort a popular movement in Algeria.

Stressing that Iran's Foreign Ministry was closely following the developments in Algeria, the spokesman noted: "Obviously, people of a country who have an impressive anti-colonialist record, would never accept their country be administered by force."

As for Iran's cooperation with the Persian Gulf Ccoperation Council, he said in light of the extent of Iran's coastal lines in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, and due to Iran's geopolitical situation, "our views should be taken into consideration."

"In general, our policy is based on the fact that security in the Persian Gulf and overall supervision on the Persian Gulf-related affairs should be maintained only by the regional states," said the first vice president.

On Iran's decision not to take part in the forthcoming session of the leaders of the Afghan Mujahidin in Bonn, Habibi said: "This is not an official gathering but rather a debate session. Therefore, we do not consider it necessary to attend sessions which will not come out with a major decision."

However, he added: "Due to our long borders with Afghanistan and the issue of Afghan refugees in Iran, we are concerned about the fate of the country and believe that coordination with Afghan officials is necessary."

Elsewhere, Habibi pointed to the issue of education in the country and stressed that overcoming the financial problems in the sector requires a sound planning on the part of the government and public contribution.

He noted that in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 1991) other than what has already been allocated, the ministry needed an additional 700 billion rials to cover its expenses. However, it received only one-tenth of the sum.

Habibi underlined the need for huge investment in the field of education and urged the public to offer their proposals and assist the government in solving the educational problems.

On introduction of a new law adjusting salary of government employees, he said that it has been approved and the Majlis has ratified the additional credit needed to cover the increases foreseen in the scheme.

The new law on the "coordinated pay system" will be enforced from the beginning of the next Iranian year (March 21, 1992), he said.

Reportage on Visit of Greece's Tsaldharis

In Tehran for Cooperation Talks

LD1201233292 Tehran IRNA in English 0649 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan 12, IRNA—President of the Greek Parliament Athanasios Tsaldharis arrived here Saturday night on an official 4-day visit to discuss promotion of Tehran-Greece ties.

Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi greeted Tsaldharis and his entourage comprising president of the Greek-Iranian parliamentary group Elias Vougioukalakis and several members of the parliament at Tehran Mehrabad International Airport.

Tsaldharis is to meet with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the ministers of foreign affairs and housing and urban development as well as his Iranian counterpart.

In an interview upon arrival here, he referred to Athens's conditions for recognizing the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and said in Yugoslavia there is no place under the name of Macedonia. He added Greece will recognize Skopje if it thoroughly observes the conditions set by the European Community.

Meanwhile, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi referred to historical Iran-Greece ties saying that relations have been consolidated after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and that the Greek prime minister will visit Tehran in future.

He stressed that increased contacts between parliaments of the two countries will help promote Tehran-Athens relations.

European Cooperation Viewed

LD1301115692 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 13, IRNA—"Iran and Europe could remain confident partners in future," Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi said.

Speaking at a reception given in honour of visiting president of the Greek parliament Athanasios Tsaldharis Sunday night, Karrubi added, "constructive cooperation between Iran and Greece is an example of such cooperation with a European country."

He expressed hope that in light of lasting Tehran-Athens relations, all avenues will be explored for further strengthening of bilateral ties.

He described as "positive" the role that parliamentary friendship groups could play in the expansion of relations between two nations and said, "Iran attaches great importance to expansion of ties with Greece."

Meanwhile, Tsaldharis termed as "very good" relations between the two countries and "very suitable" present conditions for further expansion of bilateral ties.

He also described strengthening of friendship between the two countries, under the present international circumstances, as "important".

Tsaldharis and his entourage arrived here Saturday night on a 4-day official visit to discuss promotion of Tehran-Athens ties.

President Praises Cooperation

LD1301143292 Tehran Voice of The Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Greek Parliament Speaker Tsaldharis this morning. The Greek parliament speaker expressed his joy at visiting Iran. He said that Greece, as a member of the European Community, has made the unity of that community the principle axis of its policy. Remarking on the common ground for cooperation between the two countries, he said: We are ready to expand bilateral cooperation in all fields, toward which end the Greek prime minister is soon to visit Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, remarking on the common cultural and historical bonds between Iran and Greece, said: We are aware of your efforts in terms of expanding cooperation between the two countries and hope to witness the growth of bilateral ties in all fields.

Khorasan, Turkmenistan Sign Economic Accord

LD1001220992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] An economic agreement has been signed on joint investment and the exchange of goods between Khorasan Province and the Republic of Turkmenistan on Thursday evening in Mashhad. The Central News Unit correspondent has sent us this report:

[Unidentified correspondent] Based on this agreement, which was signed between a number of managers of the factories under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry in Khorasan Province and the managers of the factories of the industries Ministry of Consumer Goods of the Republic of Turkmenistan [as heard], the factories of Khorasan Province will export serge, blankets, and completed leather [as heard] to the Turkmenistan Republic in return for 1,000 tonnes of cotton, 50,000 sq m of machine-made carpets and 200,000 pelts. It was further agreed that the factories of Khorasan Province invest in Turkmenistan for the construction of textile, glue, and anti-freeze factories. The Iranian side will provide the machinery, technical know-how, technology, and part of the required capital in this venture.

Bilateral Trade Accord Signed With Azerbaijan

LD1301000192 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—A parliamentary delegation from Azerbaijan Republic met with Iran's Deputy Minister of Commerce and Managing Director of the Organization of National Industries 'Ali Marashi and signed several letters of understanding on bilateral cooperation this week.

The delegation including Parliament member and government representative Assadov Rafaat and another MP Mehdiov Toufiq, held talks with Iranian officials over establishment of joint transport companies and border supermarkets in Astara on both Iranian and Azeri sides as well as missions in the two countries.

During its stay here the delegation visited some factories under the Organization of National Industries and became familiar with Iran's economic and industrial potentials.

The Azeri delegation arrived in Iran on Jan. 4 and left for home today.

Sudanese Finance Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD1301084692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Hamdi, Sudan's minister of finance and economic planning, arrived in Tehran at the head of a seven-person delegation this evening. He was welcomed by Mr. Zanjani, vice president and head of the planning and budget organization.

On arrival in Tehran, the Sudanese finance minister remarked to our correspondent on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Sudan last month and the agreements signed between our country's ministers of commerce and construction jihad and Sudanese officials. He noted that the Sudanese delegation's current visit to Tehran is a step toward the implementation of the economic and commercial agreeements signed between the two countries.

Pamphlets Call For Continuation of Struggle

TA1301100792 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] According to reports, pamphlets signed by the National Uprising Organization [Sazman-e Qiyam-e Melli] were printed and extensively distributed recently among the citizens in Tabriz, Khoy, Miyaneh, Zanjan, Qazvin, Karaj, Tehran, Qom, and Rasht. The pamphlets call on patriotic people to continue the struggle against the ruling regime. The pamphlets also say that the day of Iran's liberation is approaching, and our people will witness the dawn of victory and the annihilation of the mullahs ruling in Iran.

Former Judiciary Leader Said Severely Wounded

TA1401084792 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] According to a report, on Thursday evening, 9 January, 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili, head of the judiciary in Khomeyni's time, together with Eshaq Jahangiri, the deputy from Jiroft, were severely assaulted by some citizens in Qom. As a result of this attack, Musavi-Ardebili sustained severe knife wounds and was transferred by helicopter to Tehran. He was operated on at Khatam-ol Anbiya' Hospital, belonging to the Martyr Foundation, and saved from death.

Pakistan

Reaction to Pressler Statement on Nuclear Issues

Spokesman Criticizes Remarks

BK1301160792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that Pakistan time and again has clarified at the highest level that its nuclear program is totally for peaceful purposes and that it is determined to adhere to nuclear nonproliferation and wants to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. The spokesman said this at a news conference in Islamabad today while commenting on U.S. Senator Larry Pressler's statement on Pakistan's nuclear program.

Senator Pressler has expressed the opinion that the Bush administration is under the impression that Pakistan has a nuclear capability and that it might use it as well. Pressler has further said that he had told the Pakistani authorities that U.S. aid to Pakistan can only be restored when the Pakistani Government is prepared to give up its nuclear program. Senator Pressler said the United States wants to establish friendly ties with both Pakistan and India, but according to agency reports, when Pressler was asked to comment on the Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir, he left the news conference.

The spokesman told Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative this evening that Pakistan wants a regional solution to nuclear nonproliferation and that it will never accept any discriminatory stand. The spokesman said Pressler does not recognize India's nuclear capability, which it demonstrated, and he has leveled allegations against Pakistan without any evidence. In fact, it is Pakistan's neighboring country which has been opposing nuclear nonproliferation for the past 17 years after exploding a nuclear device in 1974.

In reply to a question, the spokesman regretted that Senator Pressler does not also recognize the widespread human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. The spokesman said that Pakistan quite often has invited foreign observers and proposed the deployment of neutral observers on the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir, which reflects Pakistan's policy of noninterference in any way. On the other hand, India has refused to grant permission to any institution or human rights organization to visit occupied Kashmir.

Official Says U.S. Worries 'Baseless'

BK1401025492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, minister of state for economic affairs, has described as baseless and imaginary the U.S. apprehensions that Pakistan possesses a nuclear bomb. Addressing a function in Islamabad yesterday, he said the views expressed by U.S. Senator Larry Pressler at his news conference are not based on facts. They are the unfounded viewpoints of a person who took no pains to make a detailed assessment of the regional situation and whose views are the product of a distracted mind.

As for the possibility of Pakistan's cooperation with the Central Asian republics in forming an Islamic bloc and acquiring a nuclear bomb, the minister of state said that this is a baseless and absurd hypothesis, as the question of forming any bloc whatsoever has not arisen. He said that like Pakistan, the Central Asian republics have also declared that they harbor no designs against anyone.

Zaki Says Pressler Showed 'Partiality'

BK1401112292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] The secretary general foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, has said the visit of American Senator Pressler will certainly not have positive effect on efforts for improving Pakistan-U.S. relations because before coming to Pakistan he showed partiality by expressing his views about Pakistan in New Delhi.

In an interview to the Voice of Germany, Mr. Akram Zaki said Pakistan Government needed no advice about its important national matters like nuclear program. He said national interests would not be sacrificed for the sake of American assistance. He said that international relations are not determined by military and economic aid alone; rather, they depend on promotion of bilateral political ties. Pakistan is desirous of honorable and dignified friendship with the United States, and economic assistance is not essential to attain that aim.